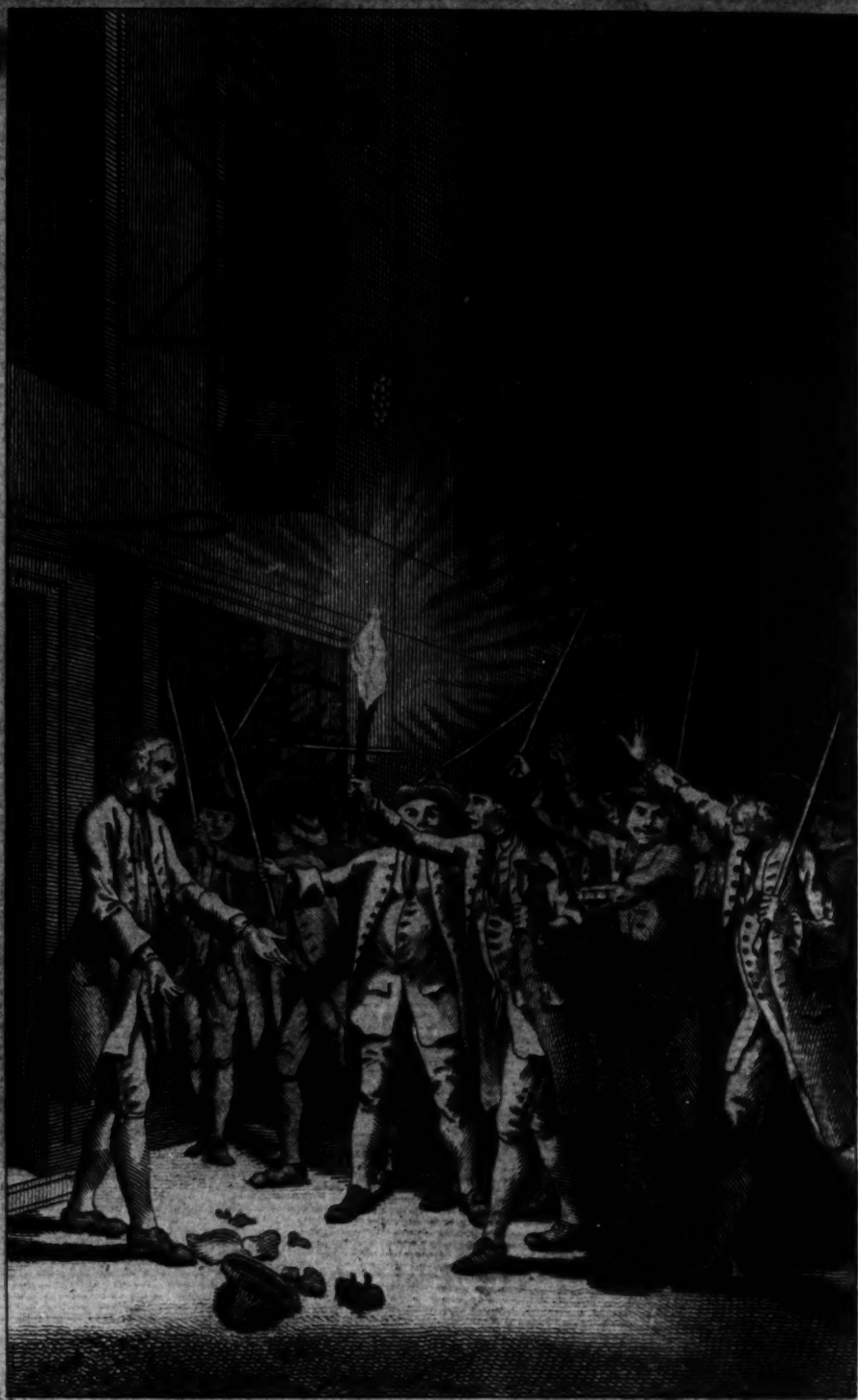


*The Mob assembled to pull down the
Bawdy-House kept by Peter Wood in St Strand.
July 2. 1749.*



*The Mob assembled to pull down the
Bawdy-House kept by Peter Wood in St. Strand.
July 2. 1749.*

THE
H U M O U R S
OF
FLEET-STREET:
AND THE
S T R A N D;

BRING THE
LIVES and ADVENTURES of the most
noted Ladies of Pleasure;

WHETHER
In the Rank of KEPT-MISTRESSES,
OR
The more humble Station of Ladies of the Town.

By an OLD SPORTSMAN.

*Such is the Fate unhappy Women find,
And such the Curse entail'd upon our Kind,
That Man the lawless Libertine may rove,
Free and unquestion'd thro' the Wilds of Love;
While Woman, Sense and Nature's easy Fool,
If poor weak Woman swerve from Virtue's Rule,
If strongly charm'd, she leaves the thorny Way,
And in the softer Paths of Pleasure stray,
Ruin ensues, Reproach and endless Shame,
And one false Step entirely damns her Fame.*

Rowe.

L O N D O N:

Printed for Anthony Wright, near Covent-Garden;
and sold at all the Bookseillers and Pamphlet-
Shops.

(Price Two Shillings.)

1749.

THE
HUMAN
OF
ELECTRICITY

AND
S. R. A. W. D.
BEING THE
LIVES AND ADVENTURES OF TWO MOST
NOTED LADIES OF PHOENIX
WHETHER
IN THE KING OF HEAVEN OR EARTH



THE
LIVES OF
S. R. A. W. D.
AND
S. R. A. W. D.
LONDON
Printed and Sold by
S. R. A. W. D.
S. R. A. W. D.

(1)

THE
H U M O U R S
OF
FLEET-STREET, &c.

LETTER I.

*Containing the Rise of, and Introduction to the
following Correspondence.*

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield, Esq;

London 27 November 1746.

Dear GEORGE,

I Received your sanctified letter, containing your pious resolution of renouncing the pleasures of this wicked town, and spending the remainder of your days in making plaisters and cordials for the sick, with the good old lady your grandmother at *Bellfield-Hall*. I received it from the *Old Gentleman* your uncle, who seems in an extasy for the great change has been wrought upon you, and would have been very witty upon your friend on the chagreen I expressed at my disappointment of seeing you as you promised when I left the country, if he knew how ; but I

B

soon

soon silenced the old justice, and have laid him a hoghead of port, that before Christmas, I bring a *Habeas* to remove you out of the custody of your relations in the country, into the hands of your worthy friends in *Covent-Garden* and *The Hundreds of Drury*. In short, *George*, I find you labouring under a dangerous malady, bordering a little upon madness, which I fancy my self qualified to cure you of, without the help of Doctor *Monro*, or any of the learned members of the college of physicians; I promise to administer you no nauseous draughts, or bolus's, I shall only make use of reason to dispel the melancholy clouds, that have gathered about your *pericranium*, and in some measure weaken your understanding. In order to this, let me examine with friendly familiarity the allegation in your letter whereon you pretend to build your aversion to the gaiety of this metropolis, and the most deserving part of the company in it the ladies.

You pretend to alledge that all the pleasures of the polite part of the world, consists chiefly in intrigues with the women, whom you have found all so deceitful; and as you, like a country puppy, phrase, so universally lecherous, that a rational creature can take no more satisfaction in their conversation, than it is possible for any thing human to satisfy their unnatural desires; they have, say you, weak heads and strong passions, are always in extremes, most commonly in a whirlwind, when their appetites are a float, and never constant to any thing but inconstancy.

This *George*, is the sum of your charge against the fairest and better half of the creation which you believe true, without any proof but what you draw from prejudice and prepossession founded on your acquaintance; for the few years you passed here at the inns of court, with the abandoned part of the sex.

You

you was too much involved, during that period, in the grosser gratification of the senses to be at leisure to spend much of your time with, or form any judgment of the virtuous part of the female world; and you must remember the old rule in logic, that generals are not to be inferred from particulars, consequently th' every individual of the sex you chanced to converse with should have proved as lascivious as *Cæsar's* daughter, and as deceitful as the *Ephesian* matron, yet you are not from your narrow observations to form from thence so harsh an opinion of the whole sex. But if you had given your self leisure to enquire into, or reflect upon the particular circumstances of the unhappy prostitutes whose behaviour has given you such a disgust to women in general, you would from thence find more reason to shun the society of men, and hate your self mortally, than to blame these unhappy creatures, who are wretched by our means, and despicable only because we, by the blackest art of cunning, deceit, and treachery, have seduced from their natural innocence, and cruelly abandoned them after we have gratified our base ends, to all that load of shame and infamy, which you not only load them with, but would charge as the birth-right of every woman in *England*. By a narrow scrutiny into the original of these unhappy criminals, you must find most of them have had faith, truth and innocence to boast of, with every virtuous inclination, 'till men by force, fraud, or stratagem, cheated them out of all; and considering the difference between male and female education, that most of them fell by such means as would have seduced us, had we been placed in similar circumstances. If this then *George* is the case of the worst sort of women, if we find that virtue, truth, constancy, and charity is as natural to them as to us, if where-

ever they swerve from the dictates of these principles, we find they have been seduced by such as nature and all its ties have placed as their hope and safety, how ill founded must you then think your ill-natured opinion of the sex, and how silly your resolution of absconding a wicked town for the more virtuous country, when you are left to understand, that vice and intrigue would be here at a stand, if it were not for the brutish lust and villanous treachery of your country squires and rural fox-hunters. I assure you every waggon brings us up the spoils of virtue and honesty, and replenishes our stews with the game which your sanctified swains have run down, against all the rules of honour and decency; and yet these monster hunters cry out against the wickedness of *London*, and each fancies himself a saint, tho' he has debauched more virgins with false oaths and promises than he has chased foxes or hares.

For God's sake, *George*, leave their hypocritical company, and come to town and sin like a gentleman; don't sneak in a corner to lie with your grandmother's maid, or debauch your cousin's daughter; if you must have game, which I know your constitution cannot be without, let the rogues in the country have the sin upon their conscience of breaking the quarry; maidenheads, are but boys sport, the taking them at best but porters work, a true cock of the game, scorns such green fruit, but if your stomach is so squeamish that nothing else will go down with you, Mother *D*—— can in half an hour new vamp half a score of them. And to put you into a better humour with the kind girls when you come up, and to keep you from reading *Drelincourt upon death*, or *The whole duty of man*, I promise you every post, as long as matter lasts, to furnish you with the secret history of one or other of the ladies of pleasure, by which you will be convinced

vinced that every thing we charge upon them as vicious is not the necessary result of their constitution as women, but the effects of deceit and treachery in us. If a few doses of this kind of medicine does not cure you of your hypochondriacal melancholy, and send you up once more to our old haunts, I shall give over the practice of physick, abjure women and wine, and turn methodist: I shall send you the first dose next post, which you are to take morning and evening, and am in the mean time,

Dear George,

Your friend, and most humble servant,

Henry Rakewell.

L E T T E R. II.

Containing the secret History and Adventures of Mother D—— of Covent-Garden, from her Birth to the present time.

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield, Esq;

London, December 1, 1746.

Dear George,

AS I have prescribed a new kind of female diet the first I shall present you with, is the history of the famous Mother D——s, of Covent-Garden, in whose house you have often solaced yourself with a brace of delicate, plump girls, of her chusing; you had then a quite different notion of the world, had none of your queer whims about virtue and retirement. Who could have thought you would so soon have turned recreant, and learned to blaspheme those pleasures you tasted with so high a gout? Was it the last pox you had in

Drury

Drury-Lane wrought the mighty change ? or was it the parson of the parish who read you a musty lecture of morality, which the dull rogue never practised himself, but thro' invincible necessity, that perverted your understanding ? If it was, I'll be revenged of him, if I should be obliged to take a journey to *Huntingtonshire* on purpose to pox his doxy, the farmer's daughter ; but to proceed to my history ;

You must know then, *George*, that Mother *D——s*, when she was a maid, went by the name of *Marine* ; whether her father was a *Scotchman*, or not, I cannot justly inform you, but in that country he lived, and begot this very useful member of the body politic. He was one of his Majesty's trumpeters in *Scotland*, and acted in that capacity at the battle of *Dumblain*, in the year 1715 ; for I find mention made of him in a stanza of a famous ballad made on the occasion of that battle, where it says,

Trumpeter *Marine* his breeks was na clean,

For in battle he chanced to fa man ;

In saving his neck, he his trumpet did break,

And so came off without music at a man.

And we ran, and they ran ;

And they ran, and we ran ;

And we ran, and they ran away man.

I own this scrap of history does no great honour to the courage of Mr. *Marine*, tho' it does to his prudence, in wisely choosing rather to break his trumpet than his neck, and preserving his valuable life for the honour of his country, and the comfort of his family, who must have suffered much had he perished with the rest of the worthies who fell that fatal day ; for tho' his appointments as king's trumpeter was not very considerable, yet by teaching,

ing, and performing on some solemn occasions, he maintained his family in great affluence, and gave his children, particularly his favourite daughter, *Emilia Marine*, the subject of the present writing, a very genteel education.

His wife was a very orderly and virtuous woman and quite averse to all the galantries in fashion, tho' God knows, what in her days, were gallantries, especially in that once sanctified city of *Edinburgh*, where she lived, were virtues in comparison to the manners of our present age; but she hated all of them, and every thing that bordered upon vice or prophaneness, was herself earnest, frequent and zealous in public and private devotion, and brought up her children in the same pious principles, instilling into their young minds an early regard to truth and religion, especially to the sanctified observance of the lord's day, which in her family was always a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer.

I cannot say Mr. *Marine* himself had quite so religious a turn in his conversation, he had been a rake in his young days, and to the last day of his life remained a sincere friend to the mathematicks, but as the good woman his wife did not confine his behaviour without doors, he was well enough pleased to counterfeit her manner when at home, since it kept order and decency in his family, and gave him a reputation with his devout neighbours, by whose interest he was recommended to scholars, on which depended the greatest part of his subsistence.

As to the girls, as they were kept much at home, never stirred abroad but in the company of their mother, or some superannuated relation, they easily imbibed the principles of grace; and our *Emilia*, 'till she was turned of fifteen, was a very dutiful child, and very hopeful babe; but about
this

this time things took a different turn in *Mr. Marine's* family, for the virtuous mother died, and he committed the care of his family to an old aunt of his, who had still a youthful tooth in her head, tho' disguised with as much pious outside sanctity as might, if real, have saved a *Sodom*; she had been formerly familiar with the famous Colonel *C——rs*, by whom she was introduced to the acquaintance of a young nobleman then commissioner for *Scotland*, whose court was remarkable for nothing less than virtue; here she had learned an itch which never left her, even when the winter of old age had froze up her blood, and an acquaintance with most of the nobility, which in the end proved the ruin of her young kinswoman. So soon as she took the charge of the house, under pretence of recommending *Mr. Marine* to business, she renewed her acquaintance with the nobility, and invited some of them to see her; at these visits *Miss Emilia*, now in the bloom of fifteen, with a person truly agreeable, was always introduced, and entertained the company with a tune on the spinnet, which she accompanied with a voice naturally sweet. Commendations and complements on the young creature passed of course, and some polite bawdy now and then dropt, which by degrees destroyed that delicacy of sentiment, so much the ornament of the fair sex, gave her an opinion of her charms, and some hints naturally stole upon her mind, of the design of the creation, which in a few months quite eradicated the seeds of virtue, the tender mother had been so carefully instilling into her mind.

A young nobleman by frequent visits to the house, and pretence of learning the *German* flute, conceived a liking to *Miss*, and set her down for his prey. He was too well acquainted with the world to believe he could meet with very great

re-

resistance from the young creature herself, if he had an opportunity to practise upon her Innocence; which he found he could not accomplish without the old aunt's aid. At first, the good gentlewoman's sanctified outside deterred him from making his advances; but consulting some of his acquaintance about her character, he had the courage, tho' a married man, to make a declaration of his love for her kinswoman. It's needless to acquaint you with the grimace the old beldam put on when she first heard the overture: it's sufficient that the event proved successful to the deceitful peer, who fairly purchased her of the aunt, who by threats and promises unknown to the father, obliged the young creature to comply with his purposes.

A thing of that kind in that city could not long remain a secret. The father soon knew it, but was obliged, from disparity of circumstances, to wink at the injury done his child, but the peer's lady at last came to the knowledge of the intrigue, exposed it all over the city, and raised such a hurricane in *Marine's* house, that the peer was obliged to return to his country-house, leaving poor *Emilia* big with child, and without any other allowance but what her father gave her, who was obliged, in regard to his other daughter, to turn her out of doors, and give what support he could spare by stealth. The officers of the Kirk laid violent hands on her; and she was obliged to mount the Creepy before she was full seventeen; which made her infamy publick, and made it morally impossible for her to live with any reputation for the future, since every thing that was either really, or seemingly virtuous, shun'd her as a plague.

When she was delivered, and her child dead, which the Kirk officers brutality was partly the occasion of, she proposed going home to her father;

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but

but the very wretch who seduced her was the greatest enemy she had, and persuaded her father not to countenance her; so that she was obliged to remain in the Place where she was delivered, which every body must suppose no very reputable house.

Here she fell acquainted with Mr. C—— of B——, who finding her young and agreeable both in her Person and Conversation, with a broken reputation, tho' likewise a married man, laughed her out of all her resolutions of repentance and amendment, and commenced an intrigue, which none of them observed any measures to conceal. Mr. C—— happened to be charged with a crime for which he was committed to the city goal, where Miss *Emilia* went and lived with him, and plaid a thousand unlucky pranks, which made her as famous as any woman of her profession in the city. I shall only mention one very remarkable: there happened to be a man confined for debt, who lay in the next Room to Mr. C—— and his Madam, who had in some measure fallen under their displeasure, for which they were resolved to punish him, and effected in this manner; they ply'd him over night with plenty of liquor, till he was pretty mellow; when fast asleep, they made a rope of flax slightly twisted together, the one end of which they fasten'd to his hand, and carried the other end to the fire, at which they lighted it, and went immediately out of the room, shutting the door gently after them. In a few minutes the fire reached the poor man, who awaken'd with his pain, the bed, and every thing about him on fire; he made a dreadful noise, which soon alarmed the goaler, who with difficulty saved the prison from being on fire, but could not save the poor man from being miserably scorched. It was easy to discover that
such

such an affair could not happen by accident; and, in the end, Mrs. *Emilia* having blabbed the secret to some of her cronies, it was discover'd who were the authors. Mr. C—— was confined to his room, and Miss *Emilia* turned out of the goal.

After this she became quite common, and lived by the painful labour, as long as she could see the officers of the Kirk; but her cash failing, they hurried her to the house of correction, where she was kept at hard labour till she sign'd her act of banishment; which she was very glad to comply with, in order to be out of the reach of the stripes she received weekly, for not performing work she was utterly incapable of.

Being thus banished *Edinburgh*, she set out for *London*, where she was introduced to Mother *H——d*, who new vamp'd her maidenhead, new rigg'd her person, and set her off at twenty guineas the first night to an old *Jew* in the city. For a season she remain'd the top of the mode, and made more money of her trade in one night than she had done in her own country for a year, even when in highest repute there. However, she had the fate of them all; went into keeping for a year or two, jilted her benefactor, and spent her money upon her bully, was discarded, and return'd again to the tavern and *Bagnio*; from thence was obliged to walk the streets, and went thro' all the scenes of distress, diseases and poverty. At last she met with a countryman of her own, of the name of *D——s*, who kept her for some time; and he dying, she passed for his widow, at least she has ever since made free with his name. The money she had got of him being spent, and her person too much batter'd to make any figure in an active trade, like all decay'd merchants, being unable to deal on her own bottom, she set up the business of

a love-broker, and dealt by commission. She found a landlord who trusted her with the possession of a House and Furniture, for which she paid an exorbitant weekly rent. — It was situated in the farther Piazza, *Covent-Garden*, and went by the name of D——s's Coffee-House. Here she fell into pretty reputable business; and, all of a sudden growing very saving, laid up a little money, and in a few years was enabled to take a larger house in the same neighbourhood; where she has had the honour to be broker to the first nobility of the kingdom, whom she furnishes constantly with the newest faces, and freshest commodities in the season, for which she makes them pay a suitable price; and in quality of purveyor-general of the pleasures of the great, makes a very considerable figure in life, and lives very elegantly, far removed from those dismal scenes of distress and misery with which she was formerly acquainted. But I have given you a full enough description for this time, and shall conclude,

S I R,

Your friend, and most humble servant,

Henry Rakewell.

LETTER

LETTER III.

Containing the secret History, &c. of the celebrated
Miss W—g—n.

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield Esq;

London, December 15, 1746.

Dear George,

SUPposing you have by this time pretty well digested the account I sent you of M. D—s, and made the proper reflections on that subject. I come now to present you with the portrait of the celebrated Peg W—g—n, whom I have often heard you admire as an actress. Miss has the misfortune, as some would call it, of being born in Ireland. Her birth is far from being illustrious, or equal to the *Eclat* with which she has appeared in both kingdoms. What her father was, whether a porter, chairman, or footman, I cannot positively ascertain; but I think I may affirm he was one or other of them, and died when Miss and her Sister were very young, and left the poor mother to struggle for their maintenance the best way she could; for it was not in his power to leave her any thing worth mentioning. She kept an herb-cellar in *Dublin*, and by selling greens, fruit and small beer, kept the infants from starving. But this low fare which that trade could afford, did not hinder Peggy from sprouting up a fine girl. She remained with her mother till she was about eleven or twelve, when the genteelness of her make, and the sprightliness and vivacity of her Temper, recommended her to the notice of Madam *Violante*, who chanced then to be in *Dublin*, and finding her for
her

her purpose, took her from her mother, and taught her dancing, rope-dancing, and the tricks of activity for which that lady was famous. Miss excelled in all, and became the darling of her mistress, and the favourite of the town.

Madam *Violante*, besides the entertainment of rope-dancing, which she exhibited to the town, had a parcel of children whom she learn'd to act farces, drolls, and puppet-shews, for the entertainment of the company. In these kind of pieces *Peggy* had always the principal parts, and soon discovered the talents of at least a popular actress. She continued for some years to entertain the town in this manner, till her person became too tall and remarkable for these childish entertainments; and was taken into pay as a lower actress, by the manager of *Anger-street* house.

The town was prepossessed in her favour while she acted under Madam *Violante*; and her youth and person, which was by no means despicable, tho' no regular beauty, all contributed to her reception on the stage with great applause. The first night, the gentry were so much taken with her, that a purse of a hundred guineas was collected for her. This encouragement set *Peggy* upon exerting her dramatick talents, and obliged the manager to allot her parts higher than he first designed her.

As she was frequently obliged under Madam *Violante* to act in man's dress, she had acquired an air and address in that disguise so natural, that she never made so good a figure in her own apparel, especially as there is something in her voice which agrees better with a masculine than female character. She acted in *Dublin* the part of Sir *Harry Wildair* and Captain *Plume* so much to the satisfaction of the audience, that houses never were more crowded, than when she appeared in any of these characters.

characters. Not that she could be said to be a judicious actress, either in her male or female capacity; but she personated the man so much better than most women could do, that this alone made amends for any impropriety in the real character, to which, in my opinion, she was never equal. However, she was much admired in *Dublin*, especially by the young rakes of the town, who swarm'd about her for their own ends. Whether Miss carried her chastity to the stage or not, is a point very dubious; if she did not, the slip was not much regarded by the beaux, who were willing to purchase her at any rate. But she had wit enough, though young, to keep up to a pretty high price; which young G——r, one of the richest commoners in *Ireland*, at last come up to. He had her, and in some little time took her from the Stage, and carried her over to *England*, where he spent some very considerable sums upon her. She returned with him again to *Dublin*, and was the cause of a breach between the young gentleman and his father, who is naturally a parsimonious man, and hated that his son's extravagance with *Peggy* should be the jest and talk of all companies in town.

This outfall with the old father lessened the lover's revenue, and that diminished *Peggy's* affection; in short, she discarded him, and took up with C——T——f, a young gentleman of a good fortune, and a very extravagant disposition. Young G——r resented her usage of him, and talked very freely of her in all companies; and in particular used to say, that all the fine things with which she made so great a figure on the stage, for she was again returned to it, were his. This came to *Peggy's* ears, and she took an opportunity one night, in a full house, before she went off the stage at the end of an act, to take a gold watch from her
side,

side, and holding it up to the audience, said, *This here is for favours received, which I shall use as I would the scoundrel who gave it me*; threw it on the floor, and stamped it to pieces with her foot. However, notwithstanding this publick affront, G——r and she made it up once more. The Count was discarded for some time; but in the end prevailed over his rival, and persuaded Miss to come over to the *English* stage, where she has appear'd in the same characters as in *Dublin*, and with the same applause. She continued pretty true to the Count for a few months; but at last took up with a peer of her own country, who allow'd her very handsomely: but I am misinformed, if she has not had several keepers since. From all of them she gets what she can, is not over and above extravagant, but is said to save money: and, what I think is the most commendable part of her character, she allows her mother, who is still living, a handsome allowance to live on; and maintained her younger sister, taking care that she should be as virtuously educated as possible, arming her with very good advice, to avoid those rocks on which she herself has split. The sister is allow'd by all an unblemished character, is married to ***** but much against Pegg's will, who foresaw they would be both unhappy; yet it is said the most they have to subsist on, proceeds from her. I am,

Dear George,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Henry Rakewell.

LETTER

LETTER IV.

*Containing the secret History, &c. of the famous
Miss F——y M——y.*

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield, Esq;

London, December 20, 1746.

Dear George,

MISS F——y M——y, commonly known by the name of *Lady Fanny*, was born in the West of *Scotland*; her father is a gentleman of a middling fortune in that country, of as good a family as any of that name, and nearly related to a certain person lately very famous on a more famous occasion, but of a character no ways of kin to his much talked of relation. He had several children, to whom he gave a very liberal and regular education: his wife, a woman of exemplary piety, without the least tincture of hypocrisy, or religious bigotry, brought up the young ladies in a manner suitable to their birth and fortune, and with such principles of virtue and religion as seldom fail to add lustre to the greatest natural parts, and the highest extraction. *Miss Fanny* the eldest, was the darling, of both father and mother, who notwithstanding never allowed their fondness to extort from them any indulgence that might taint her morals, or encourage the growth of any indecency; on the contrary, as they lov'd her more than any of the rest of their children, they were more than ordinarily careful to cultivate her understanding in order to add real value to those personal charms which she began early to display. They watched carefully every folly or forwardness, and check'd every luxuriant growth that discovered itself, 'till

D

by

by their constant assiduity, they had fixed her in a habit of virtue, which they hoped would bring lasting comfort to their old age. They saw her with pleasure excell in every female accomplishment, without the least tincture of self-conceit, or affectation, she herself seemed the only person of their acquaintance ignorant of her uncommon merit and excellence.

A young lady of these accomplishments, of a good family, and what they call in that country a genteel portion, could not be long without suitors. When she was about the age of eighteen, many appeared, some of which her parents would have approved of as suitable for their daughter, but they had too tender a regard for her to urge her to give her hand where she could not give her heart; they had entire confidence in her prudence, and were resolved to let their approbation wait her choice. She received the addresses of a numerous croud of lovers with equal insensibility, and saw herself the toast of the whole city of *Edinburgh*, for two or three winters, without being the least elated, or altering the modesty of deportment for which she was particularly remarkable. She found herself hitherto admired and caressed by all, without any particular emotion in her breast in favour of any; at least, if she felt any, they were so transitory they never deserved her serious attention; and she was resolved neither to wed for love, or mere interest, but that there should be a just proportion of both present at her *Hymen*, or she would never change her condition, which at that time was as happy as any of her sex and station could be.

But one unguarded hour shipwrecked all her fair hopes, and exposed her to all that load of shame and obloquy which has pursued ever since.

There

There is, or was a certain noble Peer who had a more than ordinary share in the management of *Scotch* affairs ; he is naturally amorous, though much advanced in years, and to gratify this disposition, and like *Cæsar* for political reasons, he lay with and debauched as many as he could. Three in particular were first in his favour, ladies of some distinction by their husbands places, and more so by the influence they had in the disposal of such small posts as were sometimes in the gift of their patron. One of those, the lowest in station, and who had least claim to the personal services of our statesman, undertook the post of purveyor to his pleasure, and by all the means in her power endeavour'd to seduce as many young creatures for his use as she possibly could. She had succeeded in pleasing our Lord in this station to a miracle, and seldom failed of solacing him after the fatigues of state, with the virgin spoils of some family fare, more honest and honourable than her own. It happened some years ago that our statesman had carried some very honest and important point against the country faction, for which he was resolved to keep holiday in a peculiar manner ; to complete the entertainment, this illustrious bawd of quality was spoke to invite as many young ladies as she could. The peer and his companions characters were too well known to suppose that any women of virtue or fashion would appear at any entertainment of his giving, knowing it to be such ; the procuress then artfully invited about a dozen young ladies of the best note in the city to drink tea with her that afternoon, some of them her relations, and all of them sisters or daughters to her most intimate acquaintance ; they all came as by chance, not dreaming of any design ; it was in the beginning of summer, when the gooseberry's were just ripe,

and a fine evening. After tea, the beldam proposed they should take a turn in the E—— of ——— gardens in the suburbs, where they might eat goosberrys and pass the evening 'till supper time. The young ladies, who knew these gardens were generally open to people of quality, for the sake of the walk, agreed to the motion. They went and took a turn round, and pulled such fruit as the season yielded, and on a motion made by their conductress, went to take a view of the house supposing none to be in it. The family were really out of town, and none belonging to the family in it but some servants; but the peer I first mentioned had apartments there while he staid in town, which the ladies did not at first know of; they were shewed by the housekeeper all the apartments, and were at last conducted to an inner parlour, where a sumptuous collation was prepared; at their entrance, they saw no body, but at the earnest request of their conductress, who said it was prepared by her orders, they sat down: In a short time, the peer and his companions appeared, the ladies were prevailed on to sit still, they eat part of the collation, and was served with cool tankard, which was made so strong that in a little time most of them were fuddled, and all of them too much elevated to be aware of the sequel: to make short, the table being withdrawn, and music called for, they danced for some time, and on a signal given, all the lights were put out, when a scene followed not proper to be described; but all were that night undone, by foul or fair means, and amongst the rest Miss *Fanny*, who fell to the lot of a young nobleman lately married, they were all sent home next morning to their relations, but it was nine months before they could digest the collation at the

gooseberry-ball, which this transaction always went by.

When Miss *Fanny* went to her mother, she was severely chid about her staying out all night, and closely interrogated about her company and conduct. Though shock'd to the soul at the inhuman treatment she had met with from the base procurers who had trepanned her, and her cursed set of peers; she fondly imagined the most interesting part of the story would be concealed, she foolishly hid that part from her parents, who were easily induced to forgive her indiscretion of staying out, upon seeing the real and unfeigned concern she was under on that account herself. The affair, though much and variously talked of, yet was kept as much a secret as a thing of that kind could be, where so many were actors, on account of the high stations of all the parties concerned: but a few months had not past, when the secret was blabbed by a swelling that appeared too conspicuous in Miss *Fanny* to be concealed. She was inconsolable on the discovery of her misfortune, and made her case known to an old relation, who heartily sympathized with her. She related the whole affair to her parents, who, till now, attributed Miss's indisposition to something else. But, instead of finding that compassion in them which she expected from their great tenderness to their truly deserving child, she saw them fly into the most violent rage, and would hear nothing in alleviation of her guilt, but instantly turn'd her out of doors. Her aunt, who depended on her father for subsistence, durst not see or countenance her, though she had so much the inclination to do so, that she sickened and died in a few weeks with mere vexation. The rest of her relations were equally obdurate; for there is a pride peculiar to the *Scotch* gentry, that they never

never forgive a slip of this kind, looking upon it as an indelible slur upon their families.

She took lodgings where she could get them, and was advised to write to the lord, who had been her partner that fatal night, to acquaint him with her condition, and desire support from him. He came on the summons, gave her some small supply, and solicited for renewal of the guilty favour; but this she rejected with contempt: but having made a party in the house where she was, he was let in privately over night to her apartment, and at last gain'd his ends. The sense of shame in a woman once lost, and when she is persuaded that nothing can gain her future esteem or reputation, she often grows desperate, at least is easily tempted to continue in those steps which first brought on her ruin. When we are convinced, that we can never enjoy the reward of virtue here, which is esteem and fame, the ties of an Hereafter are too weak to keep us in our duty against such strong temptations as Miss *Fanny* had to encounter with. She was abandon'd by all the virtuous part of mankind, was in the power of, and dependent on a noble villain for support. It's no wonder then she yielded to be voluntarily undone, and in her own phrase, to taste the sweets for which she already suffered the shame.

He continued amorous till she was brought to bed, and some time after; but having, in some of his other rambles, caught the foul disease, he communicated it to *Fanny* as his parting gift, after which he never saw her, but left her to want and misery. She was a stranger to the new distemper she had caught, and her landlady could give her little or no directions how to treat it, but could guess it was venereal. She had still the remains of delicacy about her, and nothing of the common prostitute;

prostitute ; so that she was as much shock'd at the thoughts of this disaster, as at the first notice of her pregnancy ; especially when she found her case so bad, that she must submit to the Inspection of a surgeon. A young fellow was called, who put her into a salivation, and gained so much upon her during his attendance, that all the remains of modesty she had left vanished. She surrendered to him the first fruits of her new state of health, and finding her circumstances daily decaying, she submitted first to private prostitution, and at last became quite common ; for some months she was the top of the game in that city ; but the vacation coming on, and most of her wealthy customers leaving her, she was unable either to support herself, or answer the exorbitant demand of the Kirk magistrate ; and so had the common fate of them all, was sent to mill-doll in the house of correction. To get out of this miserable place, she was glad to indent with a dealer in servants for *Virginia*. She, and several others in the same circumstances, were carried to *Glasgow* ; but in the journey there, she had the address to wheedle her master into a more than ordinary liking of her person. He made attempts to be familiar with her on the road ; but she put him off till she came to *Glasgow*, where she agreed to lie with him at the inn. You must know, *George*, that of all the cities in *Scotland*, that of *Glasgow* is most sanctified ; every man there has made a covenant with his eyes, and looks upon fornication as a most damnable sin. The magistrates of all ranks, especially those of the church, look as demure as so many monks sworn to celibacy, and punish the least slip of the flesh with unrelenting fury. Though they love money more than any thing else, yet they can scarce be persuaded to commute sin with money ; at least if they do, their consciences

consciences are so monstrously greedy, it would require the estate of a prince to answer all the demands they would have upon a man of my complexion. I don't say, my friend, they are made of snow in this city more than any other: No; I believe the trade is carried on here as largely as in any place on earth of the bulk of it; but it's done with so much circumspection, that nothing appears in publick to betray their pious outside. Miss *Fanny* was not ignorant of the character of the place, and on it built her hopes of freedom; for she had no stomach for a seven year's servitude, though she would have indented with the devil to have got rid of the *Cerebus* of the house of correction. I have observed, she had consented to make her master her bed-fellow at the inn; which she did, but took care the landlord of the house should be privy to it. He was old, and of the sanctified tribe; and it griev'd his righteous spirit that his chaste house should be polluted with such prophane doings, and was resolved to wash off the stain by a severe punishment on the young merchant. When he knew he was safe in bed with his doxy, he immediately apply'd to a magistrate, and brought a constable to surprize them in bed. They entered the chamber, and found them at an exercise not altogether consistent with the piety of the saints, and immediately hurried them away to the guard-house almost naked. The young merchant knew the consequences of coming to a public tryal, therefore wisely made up the matter, which was done by a pretty large sum of money among the parties, and a grant of Miss *Fanny's* freedom.

Being thus got rid of her *Virginian* expedition, and having a little money as her share of the commutation-money, she knew *Glasgow* no place for

one

one of her profession; therefore she set out for *London* by the western road.

When she arrived here, she by chance stumbled on a girl of the town, her country-woman, and of her acquaintance. She took up with the station of her maid; but in a little time, her person and address being too much superior to that of her mistress, they changed places; and Miss *Fanny* has ever since had very good luck both in keeping and out of keeping, and appears at all publick places with as much *eclat* as any of her profession. She has a peculiar gaiety in her temper, but for her life cannot help reflecting upon the happy state she fell from, and the base course she is obliged to follow, which I sincerely believe she would abandon, if there were any possibility of gaining some share of her former reputation, by the most hearty contrition and repentance: but that is impossible; and I am afraid she must continue what she is, while youth and health lasts, and then die miserable. I fancy you will allow she deserved a better fate. I am,

Dear George,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Hen. Rakewell.

E LETTER

LETTER V.

Containing Mrs. B——r's own account of the manner of her prostitution, and her present circumstances.

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfeild Esq.

Dear George,

I Happened t'other night to pay a visit to some ladies, where the conversation turn'd upon the fate of the ladies of the town. Amongst a set of virtuous women, and some of them old maids, you may believe the reflections upon these unhappy creatures were very severe. I have a particular pleasure to humble pride, and silence that spirit of slander, too often the result of the pride of chastity, where perhaps no other virtue but that cold inactive quality subsists: and I have all my life look'd upon these poor creatures as greater objects of pity than of hatred: therefore I stood up in the defence of the fair inhabitants of *Drury-lane* against the saints, and said as much as drew upon me the ill-will of two or three of them, who can admit of no alleviation to the crime of fornication; and would have all women of the nature of salamanders, to be able to live in the fire without scorching. However, I saw one of the ladies listen to me with more than ordinary attention. She seem'd pleas'd when I said any thing in justification of the fair criminals, or pleaded the force of temptation, and the treachery of the men: and at some relations I made, such as I either have, or intend to transmit to you, I could see her face covered over with a crimson blush, which I took at that time as the symptoms of a delicacy and tenderness of disposition, and a
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mind easily touched with the misfortunes of her fellow-creatures: but since, I have learned these emotions flowed from a more interesting principle than the common passion of sympathy and benevolence; for a day or two after, I received a letter from the lady, which, as it corresponds with the regimen I have prescribed you, I send you a copy of, only concealing the name, as that can contribute nothing to your advantage, when I assure you the story is real, and in no shape fictitious.

S I R,

I Heard your conversation at Mrs. L——s with a mixture of pleasure and pain. I was agreeably surprized to find any of your false sex have such humane notions of the unfortunate part of ours, pleased to hear their follies extenuated as far as consisted with truth, religion and good nature, but now and then shocked to find some touches in your narratives, that awakened in me the painful remembrance of those guilty scenes I myself have passed; for I must confess to you, I have been one of these unhappy creatures, and gone through all the miseries incident to a life spent in guilt and misery. You seem so much interested in behalf of the miserable; and as you dropt something in conversation of your being engaged in converting a friend from a hatred conceived against the sex in general, on account of the abandon'd character of the women of the town, I thought my history, which is now, thank God, only known to myself, would be no disagreeable present to you for your friend's use, and might help you as a common-place on such rencounters as you had the other day. I need not caution your secrecy, prudence

will suggest it; and therefore I proceed without any farther preamble.

I was born in the city of *York*, of parents whose circumstances were easy, and their character such as recommended them to the esteem and acquaintance of those of the first rank in the county. I am the youngest of three daughters, which is all the children my parents ever had. We were all three educated in a very genteel manner, as far as the city of *York* could afford it. My two sisters were married before they were eighteen to two gentlemen of the neighbourhood; and though I was but turn'd of sixteen, I had suitors in abundance: but I had no notion of a married state; and my mother, who undeservedly preferred me to all her other children, could not think of parting with me but on very high terms. My other sisters had each their portions paid; and my father let their husbands know they had nothing to expect at his death, as he intended to settle the remainder of what he had upon me, which all the city believ'd to be very considerable: and, of course, I was address'd by a set of courtiers of a higher station than I could have expected, had my division been equal to that of my other sisters. Amongst the rest of my suitors, one appeared who bid fairest for my esteem, and the approbation of my parents. He had all the advantages of youth, wit and person to recommend him to the fair, and a good estate in the county unencumbered: a proper bait for the old people, whose ambition could suggest nothing higher than what now appeared. I was soon sensible of his attractive power, and my young heart was easily gained by his flattery: in short, every thing bid fair for a match, which wanted only settling the common forms and conditions to compleat it. He had free access to the house, was like one of the family,

family, and treated me with doating fondness, and I looked upon him, and loved him in every respect as if he had been my husband. His behaviour was so polite, and his conversation so circumspect and delicate, I had not the least mistrust of any base design lurking under so fair an outside, and gave my heart a loose to love and fondness, and received him at all times without the least reserve, believing my virtue as safe as in a church. My father and he talk'd over the conditions, and they seemed to differ in nothing material; and they both proposed, that in a fortnight after, on my father's return from *Newcastle*, where business of importance called him, to draw up the writings, and celebrate the nuptials. My father went, and my lover lay that night, and some nights before, at our house. We sat up late that night playing at cards after my mother was gone to bed; and when we were to part, we left the parlour together, he being to pass my chamber-door as he went to his. He dismissed the servant, who was lighting us up, at the foot of the stairs, saying he would not trouble him so late, but would undress by himself. In passing my chamber, he went in, and we fell into a long chat about indifferent matters; at last talk'd of our approaching nuptials with abundance of delicacy, but great ardour, and pressed me with uncommon ardour to his bosom, then left me, and went to his own chamber. So soon as he was gone, I began to undress, and was stripped all but a loose gown and my shift, when I heard something knock gently against the door. Supposing it to be one of the maids, I open'd it, and was in no small confusion to find it was my lover in his night-gown and slippers. He begged pardon, and pretended he had forgot his snuff-box on my table, which he could not sleep without; first, as he sometimes took

took snuff in the night, but especially as it had in the lid of it my picture which he said he could not live without looking at, till the dear original was all his own. I returned the compliment with a banter, and he took up the box, which was indeed upon the toilet, and opening it, look'd sometimes on the picture, and then at me, cries out, *Damn the painter, he has not done you justice, or you did not sit to him as you are now*: then ran out in wild encomiums on the charms of a dishabille, snatched me to his arms, and pressed me eagerly to his bosom half naked as I was. I blushed at some freedoms which my dress permitted him to take, and begged of him to leave the room. He laughed at my simplicity, to be uneasy at his seeing me thus; he said it was his privilege, I was his all but the ceremony, which only confirmed the marriage before men, but he hoped ours was long enough ago recorded in heaven: in a word, he used all the common arguments to conquer my nicety, and poured forth uncommon imprecations on himself, if he meant to invade my innocence; and I at last indulged him in all the innocent dalliance he could ask. The evening grew cold, and he fancied I grew chilly, and begged me to go to bed. I said I would when he left the room; but he attacked that as another supercilious foible; and in the end prevailed on me to draw the curtains only while I stepped into bed: then he threw himself on the top of it, but never offered the least indecency. We parted when it was break of day, and both went to rest.

Having thus broke the ice, he came the next night, and took the same freedoms, observing the same decorum in his speech and actions: a third and a fourth passed in the same manner, which had this effect on me, that I was every night less shock-

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DAMME, JEM, she's got a PRETTY LEG!

ed, less alarmed; and the fourth night I was impatient till the hour came, which was to renew our (to my opinion chaste but) amorous dalliance, which I thought that night tedious; and when he came, I even chid him for being so long from me. I was in bed, and he found by my behaviour, that he had pretty well prepared me for a conclusion of this scene. After lying some time on the top of the bed, he pretended to be cold; I put the quilt over him, but that did not warm him: in a word, by degrees, and the same class of arguments he used before, he, to speak in a military term, carried his works to the foot of the wall of the fort, to naked bed. Of course some farther freedoms ensued, not before enjoy'd; but there he stopped for that night, and left me at the usual hour. Next night he maintained the ground he had gain'd the night before; and every hour advanced to greater freedoms, till after oaths and imprecations sufficient to have sunk a nation, that he meant me fairly, and would perform the ceremony when I pleased, was prevailed on to exchange vows with him, and to admit the faithless wretch to all the privileges of a husband.

In this manner the days and nights passed till my father returned, my lover all the while seeming in no measure to abate his tenderness and affection. When the old man had been a day or two at home, they entered into discourse by themselves of conditions, &c. but the lover asked more than it was really in my father's power to give; which when he would not comply with, he broke off the match: but apprised me, that it was only artifice to bring my father into as good terms as he could, but that he never would forsake me. As I truly loved him, I believed him, and saw him leave the
house

house with very little emotion ; but I soon grew alarmed, when a week passed without hearing from him, though he promised to write every day, and much more so, when at the end of a three week's silence, I found all the symptoms of pregnancy. I could refrain no longer, but wrote to him in all the bitterness of anguish, and said all I could, to recall him to truth and honour ; but these were fled far from his heart. He answered my letter, it's true, but in such a cold style as bespoke the villain ready to stick at nothing, as it appeared he did not : for he took care this letter should fall into my father's hand, who opened it, and was struck to the heart when he found by it my unhappy situation. He shew'd it my mother, who swooned away when she discovered the fatal secret. After she had come to herself, they both came into my chamber, not to chide me, but to bemoan my misfortune ; for they had too good an opinion of me to believe I yielded from any principle of inherent levity ; but believed the villain, as the letter shew'd him, had practised upon my innocence, and by treachery surprized me in an unguarded hour. They endeavoured to smother their great concern, and, like true friends, tried to sooth my heavy sorrows, and speak comfort to my breaking heart. This treatment had greater influence to convince me of my folly, than all the arguments fury and rage could have suggested. I sincerely repented my crime, and cursed my folly, that allowed me, by slow degrees, to get the better of all my received notions of virtue : but I had still a greater shock to suffer ; for my case so affected my fond parents, that they both sickened and died in six weeks after, within two days of one another.

The grief for my parents death, who left me all their fortune, amounting to eight thousand pound in ready money, besides other moveables, gave me a pretext to refuse to see company, and to conceal my growing shame, which was hitherto a secret to all the family ; and when I was about five months gone, I pretended not to be able to bear the sight of my house at *York*, and took that opportunity to sell it, and remove myself and effects to *London*, attended only by one maid, whom I was obliged to make privy to my case, and an aunt, by whose prudence and carriage, I determined for the future to conduct myself. We arrived at *London*, and took a small house in a remote place in *Westminster*, and I never stirred out of my room, nor was seen by any person but these two, till I was delivered of a fine boy. The child was privately sent to nurse, to people who knew nothing from whence it came, and for fear of any suspicion, we left that quarter of the town, and took a somewhat larger house by *Hyde-Park Corner*. I was now but nineteen, and my pregnancy had diminished very few of those charms, which your sex once flatter'd me with ; but rather heightened my complexion. I continued private for near eighteen months, receiving no visits, but from one or two old gentlewomen whom my aunt had picked an acquaintance with in the neighbourhood, with whom I passed as a maid of no fortune, dependant on my aunt, in whose name I permitted every thing to go, resolving my fortune should never bring me into danger, or expose me to the solicitations of the designing part of your sex.

About this time, I received a letter from one of my sisters, with whom I corresponded, and who knew nothing of my misfortune, that my late lover had been to pay them a visit, and seem'd

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anxious

anxious to find out where I was ; that he seem'd inclinable to renew his Addresses, and very penitent for his former conduct towards me, which he attributed to the folly of youth, to which he had now bid adieu ; that she did not incline to trust him with the secret of my retirement, but could not refuse to promise to convey me a letter from him : This letter contained a warm declaration of his former love, and a deep sense of the injury done me ; and penn'd in such soft bewitching strains, as soon kindled the kindly flame in me, which I found had only been smothered for a while, but not totally eradicated. I permitted him to write me several, without returning any answer, but at last, judging that, the only method to restore my peace and reputation, I gave way to the fond dictates of my heart, acquainted him with my direction, and received the lovely penitent, with as much tenderness, as if we had never separated. He settled three hundred a year on me, and I made him master of my Person and fortune by marriage, which was consummated about a fortnight after our first meeting.

For near two years we lived perfectly happy, in all the tender delights of conjugal love, and in that time received no rub to our pleasures, but the death of my boy, which sat heavier on us both, as I was not likely to conceive again. But I was fated to suffer more, for in about two years after our marriage, I found to my unspeakable surprize, all my husband's estate seized for gaming debts, he had lost to Mr. B——l, and F——d, and nothing remaining except my fortune, and a trifle my aunt, who died but a little before, had left me. He made a scruple to touch my money, without consulting me, and I soon consented he should use it, to redeem some of the antient patrimony of his Family. He did so, but this did not last long,
for

for he set up for member of parliament, in a borough where he had no interest, but what he purchased with his money ; which he at last found too small to carry his election, after he had ruined himself in pursuit of it. Nothing now remained, but that part of the estate which was secured for my settlement, which I would have thought sufficient, if I had not found a visible decay of his affection, and that out of what should support me, he maintained a mistress, he had picked up in the stews, from whom he received an ugly distemper, which he communicated to me, which went near to cost me my life. However, it pleased God that I recover'd, and thinking his unkindness proceeded from my refusal to consent to the sale of the remaining part of the estate, in order, as he told me, to purchase a place; I, in hopes to reclaim him, consented; the money was got, but lost at the groom-porters, in less than a month, and we were now obliged to live upon the sale of our plate and furniture, which lasted but a little time, and poverty and misery came on apace ; which to me became insupportable thro' his brutal usage.

Coming home one evening sooner than ordinary, he brought along with him, a grave elderly Gentleman, who sent to the tavern for a supper, and some wine ; the guest behaved with great politeness, but I thought fixed his eyes and attention on me, with more than ordinary concern ; after he was gone, my husband told me that gentleman had great interest at court, and hoped he would be one day, instrumental in making his fortune, especially, if I would consent to some measures which would be proposed to me ; I told him nothing should be wanting on my part, and was impatient to know what I was to do : He was unwilling to tell me, and at last, after a very long preamble,

which he delivered very confusedly, I could pick out of him at last, that I was to prostitute myself to this court-letcher, for the sake of what he was to do, for my worthless husband: The proposal was so shocking to me, that grief and vexation hinder'd my utterance, and I could only express my agony by the fury of my looks. He saw my condition, and sooth'd me all in his power; we talk'd no more of it that night, but for a week together he put in practice all that promises, persuasion, or threats could do, to bring me to his hellish purposes; at last I told him I would quit the house, and go beg my bread, rather than be expos'd to that kind of treatment. But fearing lest I should be as good as my word, and that he should lose his hopes, he promis'd to desist his solicitations, which he did, only to enable him the better to betray me. About two or three nights after, when we were in bed, he pretended some excuse to get up, and went out of the room, in two or three minutes he returned, as I imagined, and lay down as usual, without speaking a word. What pass'd afterwards you may guess, but you cannot figure the surprize I was in, when in the morning, as soon as it was day-light, I heard my door bounce open, being frighted, I clasp'd my husband in my arms, as I imagined, but I saw the villain throw open the curtains, and with a sword drawn in his hand, threaten to murder me, calling me all the strumpets on earth: I gaz'd at him, and at the man I had in my arms, as one distracted, and at last knew my bedfellow to be the old statesman. It's too long to describe that scene, I shall only tell you the conclusion in his own words; ' You see madam, you are ' in my power, if you make a noise, or prove for ' the future refractory to my will, having caught ' you in bed with another, I'll sue for a divorce, and ' expose

* expose you to your relations and all mankind ; if
 * you do not instantly promise to comply willingly,
 * I'll call up the house instantly and expose you.'

What must I do, I had no time to reflect, and the
 dread of public infamy at that time, got the better
 of every other consideration ; in a word, I sign'd
 to their articles, and remain'd the property of that
 old villain, for some months, during which time
 he furnished my husband plentifully with money, but
 no place yet appear'd. In about six months he died,
 and the wretch my husband, was as poor as before ;
 but he sought out others, to whom I was obliged to
 yield, for his ends, and to supply his extravagance.
 At first he observed some decency, and endeavour-
 ed to conceal from the world, the part he acted,
 and obliged me to act ; but by degrees, his cau-
 tion and sense of shame left him ; and by degrees,
 I own I got the better of it myself, and tho' I found
 no pleasure in the enjoyment of any but himself, yet
 I laboured with great assiduity to supply his wants,
 which would have exhausted the exchequer. To
 compleat my misfortunes, my sister and other re-
 lations heard of my scandalous life, and dropped
 my correspondence ; I was shun'd by the honest part
 of mankind, and herded only with such as myself.
 And my husband was so great a villain, as to com-
 plain of my conduct to some of my nearest friends,
 and by laying the blame of his misfortunes on me,
 had from them several sums, out of compassion to
 his sufferings, while I was left to starve with po-
 verty and diseases. At last he was laid in goal,
 where I maintain'd him, by such means as he had
 taught me ; he had not been there above six months,
 when a relation of his died, and left him two
 thousand pound. He received it, paid the debt
 he was confined for, which was not large ; but in-
 stead of coming to share his good fortune with me,

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he went into a private corner of the town, to live with a woman he had pick'd up in the fleet, and I never heard of him, till the whole was spent, and and he laid up in the *Lock* of a disease, of which he died, soon after my knowledge of his being there.

You may guess I had no great reason to grieve for his loss, but I had a more than ordinary passion for him, and lamented his death, as much as if he had been a better husband. I put on wheeds for him, but was oblig'd to turn out on my old trade, for I had yet learned no other: My remarkable appearance, got some good business for a while, and as I had no husband to spend my money, I saved in one winter, about a hundred guineas. Finding myself thus rich, I propos'd leaving off public business, and to settle in some reputable way. A ribbon and haberdashery shop was what I pitch'd upon, and set up in a corner of the town, where my former adventures were not known, and found as much custom as maintain'd me decently. I pass'd two years in this innocent retirement, where I repented heartily of my pass'd life, and enjoy'd a calm I was a stranger to, since I was first riss'd of my innocence; and at the end of that time, I saw myself advertis'd in the news-paper, by my maiden name and that of my worthless husband, desiring me to call of a certain attorney, who would communicate something to me of great advantage; I went, and was acquainted that a first cousin of mine, had died in the *Indies*, and left his effects to me and my two sisters, which would amount to ten thousand pounds a piece. In a few months I received my dividend, but still lived *incognito*, and went by a quite different name. I found a gentleman of small fortune to my liking, whom I have married, but have taken care not to leave myself absolutely
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in his power, tho' I believe I should have no cause to repent it, if I had, for he has made large amends for all my former sufferings. We are easy in our circumstances, happy in each other, and bless'd with fine children, the eldest of which you saw with me the other day ; but I have tired you with my tattle, and shall now have done, when I add, that

I am,

S I R,

Your humble servant,

M. B——r.

This, dear George, is a faithful copy of the letter, on which I need not make any remarks, but leave to your reflection, and am,

Dear George,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Henry Rakewell.

LETTER

LETTER VI.

*Containing the Transactions of Miss H——l,
 alias Mrs. C——k,
 Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield Esq.*

Dear George,

MARY H——l, the subject of this letter, is daughter to a wealthy gentleman farmer, in *Devonshire*. Her father lives in great repute, and brought up his children in a very genteel manner, and bestow'd very liberally on the education of Miss *Polly*, who had, and has still a very genteel person, and is by some reckon'd little less than a beauty; at least, the neighbouring young gentlemen thought her so, and some of very good fortune and figure, made love to her in an honourable way, before she was turn'd of eighteen, and no doubt if she had not been imprudent, might have been very well married. But unhappily for her, the young squire, her father's landlord, in a farm he rented, made his addresses to her, but unknown to his parents, who were too haughty, to permit their son and heir, to wed a farmer's daughter, tho' they themselves, were but one generation removed from a station, much lower than that Mr. H——l was now in. The young gentleman was deeply enamour'd with Miss *Polly*, and she no less with him, on whom he prevailed to conceal his addresses from her father, till such time as his father died, who was much advanced in years, and very ailing. They continued their meetings very innocently for near two years, when he met her one evening in a wood, near her father's house, to acquaint her with the agreeable news, that his father was given over by his physicians,

ficians, and his death hourly expected. The two lovers indulged themselves in the pleasing thoughts, of an end being near to all their troubles, and the approaching prospect of their future bliss; and the swain took liberties he had never before attempted, and to make short of the story, both were wrought to such a pitch of desire, that the nymph permitted herself to be undone, before she was aware of what she was about. The first blast of possession being over, she recollected the danger she had brought herself to, and heartily repented her rashness, but the swain sooth'd her into a belief of his fidelity and constancy; and was allow'd to renew the transitory joy. They parted mutually pleas'd with the charming toil, and renewed their meetings frequently, for the space of six weeks, when the old man departed this life, and left his hopeful son master of himself, and a handsome fortune.

He met his mistress after the funeral, to congratulate with her on the event, but talk'd no more of marriage; and in a month or two made fewer assurances; broke those he made, and by degrees, quite neglected her. She found herself with child, acquainted him with it, and begged him to save her from infamy, and her father's resentment. He advised her to leave his house, and set out for *London*, where he would recommend her to a friend, to take care of her, and would soon see her. She comply'd, set out for *London*, and came to the house of his correspondent, which proved to be Mrs. Y— in *St. James's-Street*, a noted bawd at that time, but since dead. She knew nothing of the ways of *London*, where she had never been, and so was some time before she found out the proper business of her landlady, and when she did, she could only bemoan herself, for her condition was such, as to make it improper to change her lodgings, nor did

know where to apply if she had. In a word, she was delivered without hearing from her undoer, and when she was well, and propos'd leaving the cursed place she was in, for her child was dead, she was arrested by the bawd for a large sum, for diet, lodging and attendance; and was obliged to redeem herself from prison, to consent to become a prostitute, to pay the beldam's bill; out of whose debt she never could get, while the old wretch liv'd: By that time she was enur'd to the trade, she had lost all sense of shame, and despaired of forgiveness from her father and relations, and so continued it partly out of choice, and partly out of necessity. At last, after walking the streets for a season or two, she hired herself as a servant, to one C—k, formerly a confectioner, and in a little time became his house-keeper, and at last his wife, with whom she lived very prudently, and gain'd the esteem of his relations and her own; and what is the more remarkable in her behaviour was, that he had children by a former marriage, to whom she behav'd with so much tenderness, that her greatest enemies, forgot her former failings. C—k died about a year ago, and left her but in indifferent circumstances, yet she still preserves her character, as far as I can learn. I am

Your friend, and most humble servant,

Henry Rakewell

LETTER

L E T T E R VII.

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield, Esq;

Containing the secret History of P—y S—pe.

London, January 15, 1746-7.

Dear George,

THE history I am to entertain you with, this post, is that of P—y S—pe, at whose coffee-house you and I have passed many an evening, and with whose humour you seem'd so much delighted the first time you saw her, that I was much afraid, you had a mind to have taken her into keeping. You have heard herself mention many circumstances of her life, so that you are the better judge of the truth of what I now write; which I had partly from herself, in different conversations; and partly from others, who were concern'd in the most remarkable events of her life.

Her mother's maiden name, was E—g, but as to her father, I cannot be so circumstantial, as to assure you who he was. All we know of it is, that her mother was woman to a lady of quality, and happen'd to be got with child, by the heir of the family; at least, she had address enough to lay it to his charge, and the gentleman was not so scrupulous as to doubt her word. She left her service upon the discovery of her pregnancy, and lay in at a house near *Golden-Square*, where she was deliver'd of Miss *Polly*, the subject of our present enquiry, and was taken care of at the expence of the suppos'd father, who died before Miss *Polly* was five years of age, and left her fifteen hundred pounds, under the guardianship of her mother.

The mother soon after married a man of no fortune, and the child was sent into the country to board ; The father-in-law converted her patrimony to his own use ; and that he might not be accountable for it, when she came of age, at least, that there might be no hopes of recovering it, he bought a small farm in the country with it, and settled it upon his own son, by a former marriage, depending himself upon his child's generosity and honour for support. The son knowing by what means his father intended to cheat his infant ward, resolv'd not to be his tool in such a piece of iniquity for nothing, and so very piously refused, after he had got possession of the estate, and the title-deeds in his custody, to allow his poor father or mother-in-law one shilling. This reduced the old people to extream necessity, and disabled them from making regular remittances to the person who had Miss *Polly*, their ward, in keeping. The farmer, at whose house she was, seeing he was likely to be ill paid for her board, determin'd to have his penny-worth out of her person ; and put her, tho' scarce turn'd of twelve, to all the little drudgery of his house she was in any measure capable of. Miss, who had conceiv'd other notions, than that she should be oblig'd to turn scullion and dairy-maid for a paultry farmer, resented his usage of her, and was very refractory in obeying his commands, and when he endeavour'd to humble the pride of her spirit, by some wholesome discipline, Miss had the courage, young as she was, to make an elopement from him, and travelled on foot to *London*, tho' sixty miles distant from it, begging her way most of the road. She had a voluble tongue for her years, and gave such a moving relation of the cruelties of her tyrant farmer, that most people pitied her, and some places

places she came to they kept her a week or two, to rest her, and made her journey as comfortable as possible.

At an inn she put up at, about half way to *London*, from where she set out, she told her story with such a moving accent, that the landlady was much taken with her, and took the liberty to present her to lady *B——y*, a lady of quality, just then alighted at her house. The lady was charm'd with the behaviour of so young a wanderer, and found herself much inclin'd to compassionate her circumstances, and propos'd she should go down with her, to her country seat, where she was then going; Miss excused herself very politely, and told her she had fled from the farmer's persecution, and thought it her duty, first to apply to her mama for protection rather than any other, which, if she refused, she should think herself at liberty to embrace the good offices of any well-disposed christian, she found willing to compassionate her misery. The lady was delighted with the prudent answer of so young a creature, and promis'd her her countenance, in case her mother should prove unnatural, and dismiss'd her with the present of a guinea, which made the rest of her journey less irksome to her.

At last she arrived at *London*, and with much difficulty, found out her virtuous mother, who had heard of her elopement from the farmer, and was comforting herself, that some mischief had happen'd to take her out of the world, since she could not learn what was become of her; but when she saw her, all these pleasing hopes vanish'd, and were succeeded by the dread of her being a burthen to her in her present low circumstances, and the pangs of conscious guilt, for having robb'd her of her maintenance and patrimony; all which, she revenged upon the hapless infant, and instead of receiving her with the tenderness of a mother, sympathising
with

with her sufferings, or blaming the brutish farmer for those cruelties, which the poor wanderer painted in such lively colours, she redoubled her calamities, and entertained her for the first two or three hours after her arrival, with unmerciful blows, and the bitterest execrations, which poor Miss was obliged to submit to, for the time. She was about to have turn'd her forthwith out of doors, when the husband came home; tho' he was thunderstruck, at the sight of a person he had so much injur'd, yet he was not quite such a ruffian, as to approve of the unnatural conduct of his wife, in beating her, and turning her out helpless to the street. He endeavour'd to pacify the mother, as much as possible, and by his authority, kept her in the house for about a week; but he chancing to be call'd out of town, the wicked mother took that opportunity to get rid of her child; she pledged some little moveables she had, to raise a little money, part of which she remitted to the farmer, and with the rest, paid for a seat in the waggon for *Polly*. The waggoner had a charge, to keep her ty'd up like a thief, till he delivered her safe to the farmer, whose directions was to make her work, and spare no correction, to break her turbulent spirit to the yoke. The farmer, a meer brute in his disposition, executed his instructions with malicious punctuality; he welcomed her to his house, by stripping her naked, and anointing her unmercifully with a cat and nine-tails, a kind of discipline he threatned her with, every time she proved in the least refractory to any of his commands.

For some months, poor *Polly* was obliged to submit to what usage she meet with, tho' with great reluctance. She meditated her escape, and repented day and night, that she had not accepted of lady *B*——y's kind offer; but she had no way left of making a second elopement, she was so closely

closely watch'd, and less opportunity of acquainting that lady, with her present misfortune, who was then at a country seat of hers, about twenty miles distant from *Polly's* place of confinement: However, chance was at last favourable to our unfortunate, for one day as she was returning from a neighbouring farm, where she had been sent of an errand, she was met by a footman of lady *B—y's*, who was going on a message from his lady to a gentleman's house in that neighbourhood. The young man had been at the inn, and in waiting, when she was presented to lady *B—y*, and presently knew her, and ask'd her in a friendly manner, what she did in that country, when he thought she was with her mama at *London*. Miss knew him again by the livery, and gave a brief but pathetic account of her adventures, since she had the honour of seeing his lady, and begg'd of the young man, to acquaint her Ladyship with her present calamitous circumstances. The footman, who proved to be a good natured compassionate fellow, promis'd as much as she desired, and was as good as his word, as soon as he got home.

The lady was much moved with the pitiful relation, which her servant gave of *Polly's* treatment from her unnatural mother, and the tyranny of the brute of a farmer, and resolved to free her from her slavery. The next day, she was so good as to write to her acquaintance, a gentleman of fortune within two miles of the farmer's house, a brief account of what she heard of *Polly's* case, both from herself, and some others, of whom she had been at the pains to enquire, and sent one of her servants express with it, and desired the gentleman to take *Polly* from the farmer, either by fair or foul means, and send her to her house.

The gentleman, on receipt of the letter, sent to the farmer, who was tenant to a kinsman of his,
and

and tax'd him with his barbarity to the child; the farmer urg'd the mother's instructions, of which he said he had fallen much short; but without much demur, consented to part with her. She was brought to this gentleman's house, whose lady in a few days, put her into a decent equipage, and sent a servant and her chaise with her, to lady B——y's, who received *Polly* with great marks of esteem and tenderness. This was an alteration for the better to *Polly*, in respect to worldly circumstances, but in other respects, proved a greater misfortune, than those she desired with so much anxiety to avoid. For tho' lady B——y very generously had her instructed at her house in every branch of polite female education, yet the manners of the family were such, and the example she saw from all ranks belonging to it, tended so directly to corrupt her morals, that what she got in acquired accomplishments, was much over ballanced by her loss of virtue, which her education here gave her but a mean opinion of. The lady herself, tho' possess'd of a large share of wit and good sense, and some very amiable Qualifications, yet thought herself so much above scandal, and the rules of virtue and charity, that she kept no measures in her gallantries, scarce observing the smallest decency, or the least desire to conceal them. Miss was her favourite, and was employ'd by her, in every thing relating to intrigue, which she was capable of, and was often appointed watch in the next room, when the loosest scenes were carrying on within; which in itself, was sufficient to taint the morals of one more experienc'd in the world, than a person of her years. Women are born with a natural modesty in their dispositions, which always shrinks at the first appearance of vice, and is itself, the sole foundation of that valuable female jewel, chastity; but when by frequent conversations, with persons of a lewd turn

turn of expression, or being often privy to amorous adventures, especially of those of a rank superior to them, the natural delicacy of sentiments wears off by degrees, and vice becomes daily less shocking to the mind, till in the end, the natural appetite is inflam'd, and all sense of virtue and shame eradicated from the soul. This was the fate of poor *Polly*, for she was naturally forward, and the encouragement given her by my lady, and the pleasure she took in her little prattle, made her much more so; the employment she was put upon, in the court of love, where she acted a she *Mercury*, quite obliterated her natural modesty, and gave her a relish for vice, before she knew the meaning of virtue, or understood the distinction of sexes. But she did not remain long ignorant of any thing, relating to the affairs of love, and before she was fifteen, made a sacrifice of that toy her maidenhead, to a young lord, who visited at Lady *B——y's*. Whether the lady was jealous of her young favorite, or that she was mov'd by more virtuous motives, the intrigue was no sooner discover'd, which had not been conceal'd with much art, than she forbid the young lord her house, and lectur'd *Polly* very severely, for her indiscretion. I believe a lesson of morality, delivered by one who lived so little up to the rules of it herself, could but have small effect upon any body, much less on a young creature, who was full of her first love, ravished with unpallied enjoyment, and possessed of very few notions of virtue. She continued some time in disgrace, with her patroness, who refused to employ her as formerly, and would scarce permit her to appear in her presence, except it was to chide her. This sat so heavy on miss's spirit, that she long'd to be releas'd from her dependance on my lady, and concerted with a confidant, how

to escape to her lover. The young lord was not his own master, his father being still alive, who had proposed a match which the son did not relish; and lest he should marry one of his own choosing, the prudent peer, order'd his son upon his travels, at a very short notice. The young lord was as much in love with *Polly*, as any man could possibly be with a meer mistress; but he was obliged to act circumspectly, and durst not pretend to keep a mistress openly, lest his father should suppose he was so weak, as to found his refusal of the proffer'd match, upon so mean a motive: Therefore it was some time, before they could think of an expedient, how to keep his young mistress and carry her abroad with him, and yet conceal it from his father. At last, a method was hit upon, which was this: Miss *Polly* left Lady *B——y's*, and dress'd herself in the habit of a page, and came directly to her lover, at his father's house. She was introduc'd by the confidant, as a young gentleman recommended by an acquaintance of his lordship's, who desired, if he had use for such an equipage in his travels, that this youth might be preferr'd: The message was delivered with so grave a countenance, that his lordship believed it, and accepted of the pretended young gentleman's services, and dismissed the introducer, after asking if she had thought of no expedient about *Polly*, to which she replied, she had not, and wish'd his lordship joy of his new servant. *Jack*, for that was the name she chose, was lodged in an apartment next my lord's, and remain'd for six or seven days in the house, without discovering herself to any in the family, or even to her lover, whom she resolv'd to keep in the dark, till she was fairly out of *England*; but an accident happen'd, which oblig'd her to alter that measure; for the day before my

my lord was to set out, the old peer his father, hap-
 pen'd to take notice of the page, and ask'd his son
 where he had him; he replied very innocently that
 he was recommended by such a person of his ac-
 quaintance; and that he intended to take him a-
 broad: The old gentleman reply'd, it was pity to
 expose one so young, to the fatigues of travelling;
 that he believed the boy would not be able to sit on
 horseback; and that if he pleas'd, he would keep
 the boy at home, and provide for him, for he
 liked his face. The young lord, very readily com-
 plied with his father's desire, to the no small mor-
 tification of poor *Jack*, who was in hearing all the
 while, and appeared thunderstruck, with so unex-
 pected a disappointment. However, her lover
 gave her some spirits again, when he added to his
 father, that he could do no less, out of good man-
 ners, than acquaint the gentleman who recommend-
 ed him, with his resolution and motives of leaving
 him behind; and if he has no objections to it, I
 have none, for he can be of very little use to me.
 The old peer left the room immediately, and the
 young lord ask'd *Jack*, if he was willing to stay
 with his father; to which he replied, that if he said
 yes, his lordship would be the first to repent it;
 for he believed if he knew the design the gentle-
 man had, who recommended him, in his going a-
 broad, his lordship would think it a misfortune,
 that he had consented to his stay behind; well re-
 plied the blind lover, I shall ask him to-day, what
 it is, and consent accordingly: You need not ask
 him, nor any body else, but ask your own heart,
 use your own eyes, and consent if you can to the par-
 ting with me; these words she spoke in a some-
 what passionate tone, which rais'd the young lord's
 attention, and enabled him to discover in his page,
 a much lov'd mistress. The effects of this disco-

very you may easily imagine, with all the fine things two young lovers would say and do on such an occasion: I leave all the remainder of that scene, to your own fancy, which I hope the country air, has not quite chill'd, and only inform you, that the young lord made a proper excuse to the old peer his father, and set out the next day in a post chaise for *Harwich*, accompanied by his page, and the rest of his equipage and servants.

The young lord made the tour of *Europe*, and *Polly* remain'd in her page's habit all the while; only at *Venice*, where she lay in of a fine boy, which died soon after. On her recovery, she again resumed her former habit, and discovered her sex but to one of my lord's vallets, for seven years she remain'd with him. On her return to *Holland*, the common foible of change seized her; and tho' indulged by her lord in every thing, and doated on to a degree of folly, yet she discovered herself to a brother of my lord * * * *, whom we shall call *Philander*, and commenced an intrigue with him, which her lord soon discovered, and discarded her on it; she then kept company with *Philander*, but still continued her male dress, appeared as his companion at all public places, and bore a part in all manner of diversions, with as good a grace, as if she had no relation to the female sex. And even carried it so far, as to receive and send challenges, which *Philander* always found means to make up, without bringing her courage too much to the test, tho' she mannaged a small sword as dexterously as most men. For in quality of my lord's page, she was taught fencing, dancing, and riding the great horse, with all the other qualifications becoming a young gentleman. At last *Philander* came over to *England*, and she quitted her male dress, for one more becoming her own sex; tho' it was impossible
 for

for her to throw off the masculine gait and air, to which she had been so long accustomed, and even for some years, used frequently to put her hand to her head, as if to pull off her hat, instead of sinking into a courtesy; in a passion would clasp her hand as on her sword; and to this day, cannot refrain standing with her back to the fire, as she used to do when in breeches. She continued *Philander's* mistress for some time; but her way of living was so expensive, and his fortune, as a younger brother, so small for his extravagance, that they soon run out, and were put to several shifts to supply her vanity and extravagancy; amongst others, she persuaded *Philander* to go along with her, to his brother's goldsmith, and take up from him, plate to the value of five hundred pounds, which was mark'd with the peers arms, and charged to his account, tho' sent home to them. This did not remain long a secret; his brother was enrag'd at it, and made it a point with *Philander*, that he should discard madam, and promise never more to countenance her. She had got as much out of him as she could, and so was not much mortified at this separation. In a little time, she took up with a colonel of the guards, and soon run him a ground; but she really esteem'd this man, and if she went astray, it was only to supply their mutual wants. To effect which, she laid snares for as many culls as she could, of the rich kind, and shared the booty with her colonel. Amongst the rest, she fell into the hands of the old lord C———, who was desperately in love with her; but took care to keep her as bare of money as possible; he generally locked her up, and seldom left her two things of a sort; and sometimes only one shoe to her foot, that she might not have an opportunity to go abroad, to gallant it with any other. She submitted patiently for some time,

time, till she had persuaded the old lord into an opinion of her love and fidelity ; then working upon him, in some tender unguarded hour, she cajolled him out of five hundred guineas at once, with which she made her elopement the next morning to her colonel : They soon spent that money, and were obliged to live upon pledging her plate. At last he got a regiment abroad, and she rais'd as much money as equipped him, and sent him to his command, which he honestly return'd in a little time, and enabled her to redeem her plate, of which, she has as large a quantity as might serve any peer in the land ; for she had a particular affection, for that kind of moveable, and would rather part with her skin, than sell any of what she ever was possess'd of. As she now grew older, she grew wiser, or at least more covetous ; and set about saving money as much as possible : For this purpose, she not only set up a bawdy-house coffee-house herself, where you have seen her, but furnished other's for poor whores, for which she received a weekly rent, always a week before hand, and made money apace. But this did not satisfy her, she laid a snare for a citizen, one of the sons of *Israel*, and wheedled him out of a settlement for life, in which there is a clause of forfeiture, in case she is unlawfully familiar with any man whatever. This obliged her to give up her coffee-house, and to live retired ; where I am told she behaves with great decency, and without giving any occasion to reflect upon her former conduct ; and what adds to the virtue of her reformation is, that she allows an annual pension to her mother to subsist on, tho' she used her so unnaturally, robb'd her of her patrimony, and was the main cause of the vicious course of life, which she formerly led. She not only extends her humanity to her mother, but even to the daughter of her father

father-in-law, the sister of that brother, who now enjoys what in equity belongs to her. Maintain'd her, when she had none to provide for her, for the villain her own brother would not; bound her apprentice to a manteau-maker, recommended her to business, and assisted her when out of her time; and took care by her advice, that she should behave in such a manner, as to preserve a better reputation than she herself had. But I have said enough of her, to convince you that the vicious course she followed, was, by no means, inherent in her as a woman, but was owing to the villany of her father-in-law, and the unnatural usage of her mother, which drove her to take shelter in a family, where innocence was accounted folly, virtue a cheat, and vice was the polite entertainment of every creature that harboured under that roof. I am,

Dear George,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Hen. Rakewell.

LETTER VIII.

*The secret History and Adventures of Miss H——n,
alias B——n.*

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield Esq;

London, February 1, 1746-7.

Dear George,

I delay'd writing you two or three posts, in order to give your physick time to work, and that I might not cloy your stomach too much, but especially, that I might give you an opportunity, of writing me how this new kind of regimen works upon your malady. You don't use me kindly, not to give me some account of the success

success of my endeavours for your relief; but I construe it to my advantage, and conclude you begin to have a better opinion of women in general, and of the poor kind girls of the town in particular; but you are ashamed to own it, you are loath to confess an error, and have too much ingenuity to persist obstinately against the force of rational conviction. Tell me *George*, is not this true? Have not I touch'd your pity for these unhappy creatures, who drag on a painful life in the drudgery of pleasure? Is not your disposition moved to compassionate them, and wish there was a way found out, to prevent so many miseries as fall upon them by the treachery of men, and the cruelty of their friends? I suppose you are; but least I should be over hasty in my conclusions, I shall continue my prescriptions till you command me to desist.

The heroine of this day's entertainment, is the celebrated *Nanny H——n*, who for a common prostitute, makes the best figure of any of her profession in *England*. She has a handsome furnish'd house of her own, in one of the politest streets in town. Keeps her chariot, footman, and every thing else suitable to a lady of fortune, and in a word, sins publickly with as good a grace, as any courtesan in *Europe*.

She was born in *Scotland*, and is known by the name of *Scotch Miss H——n*, to distinguish her from an *Irish* lady of the same name and profession. Her grandfather by the father's side, was a woollen-draper, or according to the phrase of that country, a merchant in *Edinburgh*, of great credit and repute; his name was *B——n*: At his death he left an only son, to whom he left a spirit above following his own employment. The young gentleman being left in easy circumstances, commenced gentleman,

gentleman, so soon as his father paid his last debt to nature, and affected to keep company with all the young rakes of fashion in the city, by whom he was distinguish'd by the name of beau *B—n*, on account of a peculiar finical taste in dress which he affected. The gay pleasures he launched into, and the expensive company he kept, soon reduced our fine gentleman to streighten'd circumstances, and obliged him to think of an expedition to the plantations, to mend his broken fortune; and in the voyage he happened to be cast away, without leaving any posterity behind him, except Miss *Nancy*, the subject of this epistle, whom he scorned to beget in the common dull way of matrimony; that would have been too vulgar and mechanick for a gentleman of his spirit and vivacity. While he was yet possessed of some part of his father's savings from broad cloaths and serges, he made love in the loose modish way to every female that would listen to him, but still kept aloft from the fetters of matrimony, to which he profess'd amongst his associates an utter aversion; yet he was obliged in complaisance to the humour of the *Scottish* ladies, to make oaths and promises of marriage, pimp to a more illegitimate appetite. For its observable in that country, that not one in ten thousand yield the smallest favour without exchanging oaths, rings and promises; a few of which, judiciously applied, being sure to purchase a maiden-head almost of any rank; but without them nothing is to be done; there is there, no free-will offerings of love, all is bargain and sale, at least the forms are always observed, tho' God knows the substance of the articles are rarely perform'd. It was on a bargain of this sort miss *Nancy* was got; for the beau her father happened to dance at the assembly with a young lady, a citizen's daughter of

some repute ; she was not over and above tempting as to her person or features, but she was young and virtuous, motives sufficient to excite a *Don Quixot* in love matters, to covet an adventure with her. The beau saw her to her chair, and according to a dancing privilege waited of her next morning to enquire how she rested, and all that. He was very well received by the young lady and the family, as he was a gentleman of a genteel appearance and person, and kept the best company in town of both sexes; thus an acquaintance commenced; the lady was treated to plays, assemblies, concerts, and all the diversions of the season and city; and without any open declaration of love he gained a large portion of miss's esteem. After a few weeks passed in this distant courtship, he brought his attacks closer, proffered love in the most romantic stile, and met with a kind return; the lady would have had him made his designs known to her father, but he was not quite so hasty; he knew after that step, he durst not pretend to trifle, or play false cards, and therefore pretended some particular reasons, which induced him to keep his purposes a secret from all the world, but herself, for some months. The poor girl believed his forged tale, and not to keep you long in suspense, upon the common stale trick of a solemn promise, confirmed by a few trifling oaths, she yielded him the last favour, without waiting her father's consent or the licences of the Kirk. Their commerce lasted for near a twelvemonth, without any discovery to their disadvantage, but at last the works of darkness began to swell, and spoil the nymph's shapes; she acquainted her swain with the dreadful mishap, but he was not then in a condition to help her; for his revenue was by this time quite exhausted, and to save his person, he was obliged to take shelter
in

in the palace of *Holyrood-House*, which is a sanctuary for debtors of all sorts, out of which no law can force them, unless manifest fraud is proved against them. This was no time for him to think of performance of marriage vows, since the lady's fortune was not sufficient to set his matters right again, even if he could have persuaded the father to have let him had it; but he had no such thoughts as to ask him; he knew *Scotch* fathers never forgive public injuries of that kind, but pursue their revenge to the third and fourth generation of the offending party; therefore the beau no sooner heard in his retreat, that his nymph was discovered by her father to be with child, than he shipped himself off for *Jamaica*, in the passage to which, as I have already observed, he was cast away, and left the father and daughter to manage the affair as they best could. According to custom, the lady was turn'd out of her father's house, when within three months, or less, of her time; and met with nothing but rebukes and reproaches from the rest of her relations, who all refused her the smallest assistance. However, a maid who had formerly lived as her woman in the family, and was married to an industrious thriving mechanic in the suburbs, had compassion on her unhappy circumstances, took her into her house, and kept her for near a twelvemonth after, till miss *Nancy*, of whom she was delivered was fit to be wean'd; at which time an old aunt, who lived in the *Island of Zeeland*, and who on account of her great distance from *Edinburgh*, had heard nothing of her disgrace, happen'd to die about this time, and left the unhappy mother some hundred pounds, independent of her father; which enabled her to live and support her child, without being burthensome to her friends. She retired to a remote part in the

west country, where she passed for the widow of one H———, which is the reason miss goes now by that name.

This was the first and the last slip of the mother ; for she behaved so well in that country, that she was courted by several of the neighbouring gentlemen, and at last after living several years without the least reproach to her reputation, married a young gentleman of a very good Estate, but not without first acquainting him with every particular of the truth of *Nancy's* birth. This generous unforced confession, so much engaged the gentleman, that he hastened the nuptials, and to his death never upbraided her with her youthful conduct, or behaved in any other manner to miss *Nancy*, than if she had been his own child begot in lawful wedlock. However, it was her fate not to merit long that favour, or protection which he so generously afforded her; for she was no sooner compleated in her education, on which no cost was spared, but she betray'd a coquetish light disposition, very unsuitable to her situation and circumstances : The mother, and her husband, endeavoured by precept and example, to correct the levity of her temper and behaviour, but in vain ; and the last shift they thought of to save her from impending infamy, was to marry her as soon as possible, thinking that, if any thing, would settle her. They found out a fit match for her; and the generous step-father proffered to lay down more money, as her portion, than he got by her mother ; but *Nancy* did not like the man, and would by no means be prevailed on, to listen to a marriage with him. Her parents importuned her, without pretending to lay any force or restraint upon her inclination, further than their advice; but that she thought repeated too often, and she could give such very bad reasons for her non-compliance,

pliance, that to get rid of their solicitations, she imprudently left the house, and set out on the way to *Edinburgh*, where she had some acquaintance, since she was at the boarding school in that city.

She made *Glasgow* in her road, and there met with a young rake, who had seen her somewhere before, and scraped an acquaintance with her at the inn where she put up. She soon informed him of her intended journey to *Edinburgh*, and in a few hours more acquainted him with the motive of it, which was sufficient for him to improve to her ruin; he pretended to be designed for *Edinburgh* next day, and proffered his company and what assistance she should demand when she came there. They parted that night, and set out next morning pretty early; but it being winter time and the road very deep, they made two days journey of it, and lay that night about twenty miles from *Glasgow*. The young gentleman treated her on the road with a great deal of politeness, seasoning his discourse with as much flattery, love and gallantry as possible; which gained pretty much upon the lady's unguarded affections; they supped together that night, and he ply'd her with a glass or two extraordinary, which she not being accustomed to, soon flustered her, and gave him still greater advantage over her, which he improved so much as to gain permission, to steal into her apartment, when the people of the house where they lay, were gone to bed. The consequence of which you may easily guess. In the morning when she awoke, having slept off the fumes of the last night's excess, and found her paramour in bed with her, she felt some severe pangs of reflection and remorse, but they were too late, and perhaps too weak, to hinder a repetition of the guilty joy, to which, the night before she was scarce more than a passive agent. They got up, and

and proceeded on their journey ; but instead of going to her acquaintance, as she proposed when she came into the city, she was prevailed on, to remain with him at a bye place in the suburbs, where he had found apartments, and a landlady suitable to the purpose. He continued with her for some months, and she had no further thoughts of the matter, till having a falling out with the woman of the house, about a frivolous affair, the church magistrate was by her made acquainted with the criminal commerce between the two lovers, who seized them in bed together, and carried them both to his own house, where the thing became public, the young rake was soon released for a sum of money, and the nymph on a kind of contract common with these rascals, was permitted to take lodgings in the city, and commence lady of pleasure, the profits of which, she shared for some time with this righteous reformer of manners, commonly known in the city by the name of the Kirk treasurer.

She was young, had a tolerable share of beauty, and a good shape, which gained her many customers, and she was more prudent than most of them are, for she saved money notwithstanding of the new tax imposed upon her, by the reforming cormorant ; but as that office is changed annually, the successor, at first setting out, gave himself prodigious airs of sanctity, and raised the price of a toleration for sin, to so high a rate, that few were able to come up to his demands, and as he had learned that miss *H——* was the richest of the trade, and dealt with the best chaps, he insisted that she should double the ordinary commutation money, and give him a list upon oath, of all her culls, that he might raise a further contribution from them. The first part of his demand she would

would have made a shift to have complied with; but the last went against her conscience, and she absolutely refused to comply, so was sent to the house of correction. Her generous behaviour to her humble servants on this occasion, gained her a good many friends, who made interest with the magistrates for her discharge, on promise of leaving the city, and amongst them collected a small purse to defray her charges to *London*, where she intended to go.

She took shipping at *Leith*, and as she had a good stock of clothes, and money in her pocket, she behaved on board the ship, like a young lady of fortune, concealing her name and character from the crew of the ship. There happened to go passenger, a young officer belonging to one of the marching regiments then on duty in *Scotland*, who took a liking to miss's conversation; he knew the world too well, to be long imposed upon by the virtuous appearance of his fellow traveller, and discovered what she was, but she allowed him to make no advantage of this discovery, without a pretty large premium, which he would not comply with, till they arrived at *London*, but being inflamed by her obstinate refusal, he at last fell into her measures, and carried her to a noted house in *Pall-Mall*, where he had his penny worths for his money.

They staid together two or three days, which made her acquainted with the lady of this hopeful house, who glad of a new face, endeavoured to cultivate an intimacy with her, and recommended her to lodgings, not far from that place.

This kind lady, did not allow her to remain long without customers, but miss was never to be persuaded to lie any more at her house, those who would have favours of her, must come to her price
and

and apartments or remain without her; for she was resolved from the beginning, since she had no church magistrate to go halves with her, that pimps and bawds should not. She persisted obstinately in this resolution, and found her account in it; for the two or three days she was there, made her sufficiently known to the servants of that mart of pleasure, and they were forward of acquainting their customers, with the arrival of a new face, which they described to great advantage, who were more inflamed by the airs of grandeur which she affected, and by this means, she was resorted to by the first rakes about court, and enabled in a few months to take a house, furnished it, and set up a genteel equipage which she still keeps up, and is said to be daily saving money, with which she soon intends to return to her own country, to live without the scandal and drudgery, she is obliged to undergo, by submitting to the embraces of every fool who has got money to entitle him to a night's lodging. This is her present resolution, but whether she may live to execute it, I know not; tho' I much fear, she has so long acted the fine lady, that she can scarce prevail on herself, to retrench her manner of living, which cannot be supported but by her continuance in her present course of life. I am.

Dear George,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Henry Rakewell.

LETTER

LETTER IX.

Containing the secret History and Adventures of Miss Elizabeth H——n, commonly called Irish Miss H——n.

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield Esq;

Dear George,

THE heroine of my last, owed her birth to ancient *Caledonia*; but this, who bears the same name, was born in the kingdom of *Ireland*, in the city of *Cork*, a famous sea-port remarkable for its export of provisions for the *West-Indies*. Her real name, I am told, is C——y, and this she assumes, the name of her first gallant; but I own its a controverted point, for I have heard some contend, that her father's name was really H——n, others C——y; but tho' the learned criticks may dispute about the name, they all agree as to the character of the man. He was, say they, a younger brother of a catholic family, and by conforming to the established religion, outed his eldest brother of the estate, who would not conform. He married a gentleman's daughter in the same county, with whom he had but a small fortune; and by her several children, but none of them lived, except *Elizabeth*, the subject of this letter.

As he got his estate in an unnatural manner, so he spent it foolishly; and in less than a dozen years became little better than a beggar, and supported himself by the lowest arts of tricking and chicanery,

for he was an honest limb of the law. When his estate was gone in the country, he came up to *Dublin*, with an intent to follow his profession; but the character of a kiln-dry'd protestant, as all new converts for the sake of estates are ironically called, and some other circumstances of his life, was an ill recommendation to business, at least to any of repute. However, he got some of the dirty kind, for which he was a proper instrument, as he had no squeamish conscience, and was regardless what the cause was, so he any how got money by it. Amongst his clients, he, by chance, had got a young fellow, heir to a good estate, in expectation, with whom he intended to marry his daughter, now a girl about sixteen or seventeen. For this purpose, he encouraged the young fellow's keeping company with her, in hopes of engaging his affection. Our youngster was not quite such a novice, as to be caught with the meer outside of a green girl, so much as to entangle himself with her for a wife. However he liked her well enough for a mistress; and was well pleased to find the father give him so many opportunities, to bring matters to bear: *Betty* was instructed to use him civilly, and if possible to hook him in; but she had not cunning to pursue the right means; for instead of angling for him, and keeping him at a distance, she was caught herself in a love snare, and then was fool enough to yield at discretion. The father did not discover her weakness, till it was too late to retrieve the misfortune, by ordinary means; therefore he had recourse to a desperate remedy for a desperate disease, which was to forge a promise of marriage under a large penalty, which he had the impudence to sue the young gentleman for. Witnesses were not wanting to support the deed,

deed; but the young lady herself being examined on the trial, spoiled all their contrivance; for she honestly confessed the truth, that she yielded upon a *carte blanche*, and if any promise had passed, it must have been to her father and not to her, since she never insisted on any such thing. This ingenuous confession, gained her the compassion and the sincere friendship of her gallant, who took her that very day from the tuition of her father, and provided for her, for a year or two, while he remained unmarried, when it became necessary, for domestic peace, to discharge her. She then took up with a young student at the university; but having once tasted the pleasures of variety, she set no bounds to her wishes; but became common to the whole college, and afterwards to the whole city. For a season, like the rest of them, the profits of her labours were sufficient to keep her from want; but custom made her familiar to most of the rakes, and diseases less tempting, so that she was reduced to the lowest necessity. At last a true son of the cassock took compassion on her, new rigged her, and carried her over to *Cheshire*, in *England*, where he had been presented to a living: She passed with him at the parsonage house, as *Sarah* did at *Pharaoh's* court, for his sister; but pregnancy destroy'd the probability of such a relation; and the levite was not quite so audacious as to pretend to keep a concubine openly, so sent her to some obscure village to lie in, sent the child out to nurse, and equipped the mother in the waggon for *London*, where she was soon obliged to follow her old occupation. She made herself known to some of the *Grecian* youths about the inns of court, and by them was introduced into the ways of *London*, and to the knowledge of the most reputable brokers,

for that kind of commodity, she designed to live by the sale of. She has been for sometime in town and has not yet been reduced to meer street-walking, how long that may be her fate I know not, but I see very few signs of reformation about her. I am,

Dear George,

Your friend, and most humble servant,

Henry Rakewell.

LETTER X.

Containing the secret History and Adventures of
Miss Jenny L—s.

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield, Esq;

Dear George,

I Was t'other night about nine o'clock, walking from *Charing-Cross*, towards *Temple-Bar*, I was accosted with a how-do-you, Sir? will you treat us with a pint of wine, and so forth, by above a dozen of poor wretches, whom I formerly knew in high figure, tho' now reduced to the lowest ebb of misery. I was not in a humour that night for fooling, as I frequently am, and divert myself often with treating two or three of them with a supper and a bottle of wine, without the least lecherous design, but rather from a charitable disposition, and out of compassion to their wants; But this night I huffed them all; and as I passed *St. Clement's-Church*, I was accosted by a young creature in the usual phrase of

of the street, but uttered with such an air of timidity and confusion, as obliged me to take notice of her. She was rather of the lowest size, but her shape and air was perfectly agreeable, as appeared likewise her face, by the small glimpse the light of the lamps afforded me of it ; she was quite new to me ; which of itself was sufficient to prompt me to be further acquainted with her ; but without that, I found in myself a strong disposition to befriend her and think favourably of her, and with that view went into a tavern not far from thence.

I was show'd a room, and called for a bottle of wine, sat down and expected my female friend would not have been long, without showing some tricks of her trade. But I was surprized, when viewing her closely, to see the tears starting from her eyes, with all the marks of shame, distress and confusion. This was an uncommon opening of a love scene, and what I had never met with before: Before I spoke to her, I view'd her closely, observed no paint, but the most exquisite natural red and white, and two brilliant black eyes, that appeared thro' her tears, like the sun in an *April* shower ; her hair was black, her bosom snowy white, decked with two round globes at a moderate distance from one another, but what am I about *George* ? going to describe a beauty, its needless, suppose her really a fine woman, which I really took her to be, and have not yet retracted my opinion. She still continued silent, and blush'd as I surveyed her with so little ceremony ; which I thought was not due to one of her profession ; but I was mistaken, for on expressing my surprize at her apparent confusion, she burst out into a flood of tears, and was ready to sink with sorrow. I begged her to be calm, and tell me the cause of her grief, which I found myself inclinable to sympathise

thise with her in, and mitigate, if it was in my power. On this assurance, she abated of her excessive sorrow, and as soon as her tears would permit, asked me, if I did not know her; I told her I had somewhere seen her face, but could not recollect where; she then called me by my name, and said the sight of me renewed her sorrows, and called back to her memory, those days of youth and innocence when I first saw her, which she said was in company with your old companion, *Billy W—*; I presently remembered her; and knew her to be the daughter of Sir *H—y L—s*, of the county of *Devon*, baronet, whom our acquaintance was in suit of, and carried me with him to his father-in-law's house, when the match was near concluded. He married her, and had five thousand pounds down with her; but they had not lived three years together, when he run that and his own fortune out at *Bath*, *Tunbridge*, *Newmarket*, &c. where he constantly was, tho' his wife was in no manner partaker of his pleasures or extravagance, but lived at a small seat he had in *Herefordshire*. When his fortune was gone amongst knaves and sharpers, he came up to *London*, and lived upon ruining others, by the same means he had been undone himself: In which he had but poor success. He applied then to his own relations and his wife's, and by their interest, got a commission of lieutenantancy in a marching regiment; but that was too little to maintain him; he soon sold out, and endeavoured to make a push at play with the money. Fortune was favourable to him at the *Groom Porters*; and in about a week's time, he won five thousand pounds and had the wit to leave off for some time; and with part of the money, purchased a place in the revenue, and lived for a year or two pretty decently. But about this time, he got acquainted with





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A WO-MAN.

*For she sitteth at the door of her house on a seat in the high places of the city
To call passengers, who go right on their ways. Proverbs Ch. IX, ver. 14 & 15.*

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with the young widow of an *East-India* captain, who had spent her dowery, but had some beauty tho' much inferior to his own wife. However, the love of a change had seized him, and he yielded to the impulse; the intrigue was for some months concealed from the wife; but at last he observed no measures with her, but brought the creature home to his house, and made his spouse a drudge to her, and in less than a twelvemonth spent all his ready money, and in about as much more, the value of his place, which he sold. The widow, so soon as all was gone, and that her extravagance could be no longer supplied, took herself away, and went to the next fool she met for her purpose, while he and his wife were reduced to the last extremity: At last he shipped himself off for the *East-Indies*, and left his spouse with two small infants, and big with another, without a morsel to support her or them. The little rags she had left, kept soul and body together, till she was delivered. She then applied to an uncle of her's, for her father and brother was dead, to try if they would afford her any relief; but some malicious persons had put it into the uncle's head, that the last child was got since the husband left her, and that it was owing to her behaviour that he had gone off, and he refused to look upon her; and all the rest of her relations followed his laudable example. She was then obliged to apply to the church-warden of the parish, for some secret relief; which she had but upon very uncommon conditions. The warden she applied to, was a neighbour and a person she had some small knowledge of, which induced her to believe he would be the readier to compassionate her circumstances. He heard her story patiently, and told her he would call in the evening, and think in the meantime, what could be done, and gave

gave her half a crown for the present. He came according to his promise, but told her he had spoke with some of the officers of the parish, who were not inclinable to grant her any other relief, but to pass her and her children either to the parish where she was born, or where she last paid parish rates, since she was but an inmate ever since she came to that. This passing her from parish to parish, and the thoughts of being at last reduced to live in a work-house, which even the church-warden represented as a miserable place, overwhelmed her with grief and despair. When he saw her wrought up to the highest pitch of grief, he seemed to be moved with her complaints, gave her another half crown, and promised to bring her better news in a day or two. The third day he came, and repeated to her, that his brother officers were obstinate in having her passed to her own parish; which sunk her into a fit. When she had a little recovered, he told her he had something to propose to her, which if she complied with, might save her and her children from want. She gladly listened to the sound: but how vast her astonishment! when she found the warden meant no less than to debauch her; in lieu of which, he promised her a weekly pension out of the poor's money. At first she despised the offer and the author of it; but some few days want, and the landlord, by the warden's directions, seizing upon the very bed she and her infants lay upon, and was all the moveables she had, brought her with reluctance to think of a compliance. He was over-joy'd to find her in that disposition, and never left her till he had obtained his base purposes. He continued to pay her a guinea a week, for several months; but at last persuaded her to let the children go to the parish, and come home to his house by way of a house-keeper;

keeper ; she complied and continued some few months longer with him, at the end of which, on a quarrel designedly picked he turned her out of doors. It was in vain to apply to relations or friends; her conduct with the warden, was too public to be concealed, and too gross to be palliated; and as for service, she was fit for no hard work, from the delicacy of her education and constitution; and that of a higher station required a character she had now no right to expect ; so that she was turned upon the wide world, without friend to help her, or prospect of relief in any shape. She had a little money about a guinea or two, and some ordinary cloaths, and resolved while that lasted to act a part consistent with virtue and decency, and if possible, for the remainder of her life. She took a small room at a chandlers-shop not far from where she had lived with the warden, but where she was not known, and desired the landlady if she knew of any plain work, to recommend her to it. At these kind of places, where gin-drinking and gossiping goes constantly forward, it is hard for a lodger to be long concealed; she was discovered to have been house-keeper or mistress to such a neighbour, and the woman charitably concluded she would be glad to be so, to any body else. So instead of looking out to recommend her to plain work, she goes directly to a young captain who lodged hard by, and had employed her in the bawding way, and acquainted him, she believed, she had game for him at her own house, gave a favourable description of her person, and on pretence of making shirts for him, introduced him to her acquaintance; and not to detain you too long with a common intrigue, she partly by fraud, force and flattery put them to bed together.

The captain was generous both to his mistress and the procuress, and continued doatingly fond of her for some months; in which time she equipped herself pretty decently, and saved some little money. But the captain had been dabbling somewhere else, and carried her home the fruits, and then was called to his command in *Flanders*. The cure cost her all the savings; and she lived as long at her lodging as they would give her credit, but that gone and no hopes of relief, she has lately taken to the streets; and I believe I met her on the third or fourth night of her travels. She gave me her history I believe with great truth, and seemed heartily sorry that necessity had drawn her in, and still kept her in it. I gave her a guinea and desired her to go home, and not stir abroad till she saw me, and that I would do all in my power to persuade her relations, with some of whom I am intimately acquainted, to do something for her that may put her above want of the necessaries of life. I have made some progress in it already, and doubt not but in a few days, I shall deprive *Fleet-Street* and the *Strand*, of one of their new inhabitants. I am

Dear George,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Hen. Rakewell.

LETTER

LETTER XI.

*Containing the secret History and Adventures of
Miss Elizabeth M——ie.*

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfeild Esq;

London, March 2, 1746-7.

Dear George,

MISS *Elizabeth M——ie*, has been upon the town in common for these four years past, and gone thro' all the scenes of diseases, woe and misery, tho' her birth, education, and first stage of life promised a much better fate. I cannot say her extraction is illustrious; yet she is descended of a reputable stock of gentlemen farmers in *Kent*. Her father *Richard M——ie*, has a small patrimonial farm of about one hundred and fifty pounds a year, and rents about three hundred a year of my Lord * * * * *. He had three daughters, of which *Elizabeth* is the youngest, and one son, who follows his father's business, and is settled in a farm about three miles distant from him, near the coast of *Kent*. The honest farmer married for a second wife, a woman of *Hawkhurst*, possessed of a small dowry, in right of a former husband in that neighbourhood, which match in effect, proved the ruin of poor *Elizabeth*, the subject of this letter. When this woman came into the family, the girls were all grown up, and this youngest about sixteen, a promising, sprightly, blooming girl. The two eldest were soon married to wealthy farmers in that and the next parish, and only *Betty* remained, whom the mother-in-law resolved for a kinsman of hers from *Hawkhurst*, who had all his life time been bred up amongst a gang of smugglers, with which

that town swarms, and had picked up a little money, but not sufficient to settle in any business, without carrying on his old trade of running goods. The father had no stomach for the match, as he had conceived an aversion to the cruelties, the gang just at that time began to practice, and looked upon them in no better light, than a set of banditti. He urged his aversion to his wife, but she was a true woman, and resolved to be obstinate in spite of the father. She sounded her daughter-in-law's inclination, which she found utterly averse both to the man and his profession ; but that was a small difficulty, she determined to beat her into compliance, and to bully her husband out of his consent. *Betty* had an uneasy life for two or three months, and was as obstinate one way as the mother was the other ; at last tired out with her importunities, she got leave of her father to go and pass a month or two with her brother ; but this was getting out of the frying pan into the fire ; for as her brother lived upon the coast, he had got a little taste of the smuggling trade, and his farm lay so much in the way of the gang, that he durst not, if he had any such inclination, do any thing to disoblige them. She had not been long there, when she received a visit from her sweetheart, and her brother by direction from his step-mother, acquainted her that she must look upon, and treat him as her husband ; she remonstrated to her brother all she could, but in vain, he swore he would stand by till he debauched her, if she did not comply to be regularly married. She still persisted in her refusal, and all of a sudden the brother dropt his persecution, and the lover his visits, which she interpreted as a signal that he had quitted her for some other, at which she was much overjoyed : She stay'd about three weeks longer at her brother's house, and she thought, as the cause of the difference between her and her step-mother

step-mother was removed, to whose behaviour she had no other objection but in this particular, she had better return to her father whose darling she was. The brother made no scruple of letting her go by herself, mounted on a small pad of his own. She set out towards evening, just time enough to be at home by dusk. Though she parted with her brother very chearfully to all appearance, yet she felt a damp upon her spirits, which she could not account for; and when she had got about twenty paces out of the farm yard, her nose dropt three drops of blood upon her handkerchief, which like all other women, she interpreted as ominous of some impending misfortune; but did not dream it was so near at hand as it really was. She rode on in a pretty brisk trot for about a mile and a half, when she came into a narrow lane with a deep ditch, which surrounded some corn fields on the one hand, and a thick cops wood on the other. As she was alone and the ominous drops of blood recurr'd to her mind, she enter'd the lane with great dread and trembling, which increased more, when she saw about twenty horsemen rush out of the wood, and surround her on all sides; she soon knew them to be the *Hawkburst* gang of smugglers, which gave her a little fresh spirits, as she could not imagine they had any design upon her, who by her mother-in-law was in a kind of alliance with them. But she was soon made to understand her mistake, by the master of them coming up and seizing her pad by the bridle, and discovering himself to be no other than her smuggling sweetheart. He accosted her but in a rude manner, and told her bluntly, that she must now quit her damn'd skittish airs, and go along with him; she dropt the reins and sunk speechless off the horse; what the wretches did with her after that she knows not; for she did not come to her senses, till she found herself

self on board a ship under full sail. When she first recovered her sight and speech, she was confounded to find herself alone upon a bed, and in a small cabin, without any light but what came through a fast door out of the large cabin. She scream'd out at the sight, and was quickly surrounded by two or three ugly fellows in sailors habits, and amongst the rest she was accosted by her gallant, who thanked God very devoutly that she was come to herself, and bid her keep up her spirits, for she should come to no hurt or loss, if it was not that insignificant bawble her maidenhead, which she made a greater pucker about than it was all worth. I might, added the wretch, have had it twenty times since you came into my possession; but I scorn'd not to give you an opportunity of yielding it fairly, which I hope you'll find yourself inclined to do, when we arrive in *France*, where we are now bound with a fair wind, and hope to land before to-morrow noon. She was glad to have so long a reprieve, and endeavoured to conceal her inward disposition as much as possible, expecting, as hopes are always sanguine, that some opportunity might offer, after her arrival in that kingdom, to free her from her present calamity. She assumed a chearful countenance, eat some of their provisions, and suffered her brute now and then to salute her, and at last beg'd leave to try to get some rest, in order to get rid of their company: They left the little cabin to herself, and was so wonderfully complaisant, as to give her the key that she might lock herself in, in the inside. She thanked them for their courtesey, and promised if possible to compose herself: But sleep was a stranger to her eyes, the dreadful reflection that she had been so long in the ruffian's power, still recurred to her mind, and his telling her that he had not abused her,

her, was but a weak comfort, since a wretch capable of perpetrating such a villany, would certainly make no bones of concealing it with a lie. After torturing herself for hours, with the thought of having already lost her honour, she began to think how to preserve it for the future, she figured to herself what she should do at landing, and flattered herself with a scheme she had concerted to escape; which was this. She proposed to seem to yield to his importunities, provided they were first solemnly and publickly married; then she intended to go with him to church, and when the parson was about to join them, to declare the force put upon her, in the face of the congregation; which she supposed would to a man, concur in relieving her. The noise, consequence, and several circumstances of this invention pleased her fancy till day-light, and almost lulled her into a sleep; but by accident hearing some of the crew speak *French*, a language she knew only by the sound, the fine castle she had been building in the air vanished in an instant. She then recollected she was going into a country where they spoke a different language from her own, and followed different rites in religion; and could not suppose that her ravisher would bring her to the speech of any, who understood so much *English*, as to be able to understand her story, or if they did, could be possessed of any better morals than his own. This sad reflection overwhelmed her with grief, and quite sunk her spirits for the remainder of the voyage. Towards noon they arrived within sight of *Havre de grace*; there her gallant knocked gently at the cabin door, which she open'd; he acquainted her with their being to land suddenly, and hoped she had come to a resolution to gratify his wishes. She tried to wheedle him to delay it till he returned to *England*, where she said she would

would consent to be married ; but he told her plainly, he was not to be longer put off with her female arts, for either she should consent to be married that night, or he would lie with her himself by force, and allow all the crew to try what mettle she was made of ; this he spoke with such a resolved air, that she had no room left to doubt, but he would be as good as his word. After trying the force of tears, entreaties, and threatnings by turns, without being able to obtain one moment's respite, she at last, as the most virtuous method, consented to marriage. The brute was over-joy'd at the sound of compliance, and ordered the boat out, on which she and he embark'd, and soon reach'd a little pauntry village near *Havre*, and put up at a dirty *Cabera* where a priest was sent for, who in very bad *English* mumbled over the office of matrimony, and was present at such a supper as the place could afford, and after saw the couple to bed. That night some wool was landed out of the Ship, and next day she took in her loading of brandy and other goods, and set sail in the evening for *England*, they beat about the channel by contrary winds for three or four days, during which time the husband behaved with as much politeness, as could be expected from such a creature. But having landed at a place which poor *Betty* had never seen before, he seemed to be more rugged in his behaviour. She ask'd him if he meant to carry her to her father's, or to *Hawkburst*, he replied he would do in that as he thought proper, but she must ask no questions. She was obliged to comply ; for she was closely watched at the hedge ale-house they put up at, and permitted to speak to nobody, without the presence of some of her husband's crew. As she knew herself on *English* ground, the very air inspired her with a spirit of liberty, and as she had never con-

sented

fented to the marriage but upon compulsion, she
 had thoughts of forcing herself from the monster as
 soon as possible; but she wanted some-body to com-
 municate her mind to, and assist her with advice in so
 ticklish a situation. She thought she saw good nature
 in the landlady's face, and try'd several stratagems to
 get to the secret speech of her; but it was two or
 three days before she could have an opportunity; at
 last, meeting her as she was passing from one room
 into another, she whispered her, to contrive some
 means, that she might speak to her in private.
 That night she had it, for the gang were all out on
 some of their expeditions, and left her in charge of
 the landlady, who was her bedfellow that night,
 and seemed to sympathise with her much. After
 sounding her as much as possible, she let her into
 her whole affair, the manner of her being carried
 off, her forc'd marriage, and intention to invali-
 date it, and sue her ravisher for a rape. The land-
 lady heartily pitied her, and expressed all the willing-
 nels to help her as much as in her power, in every
 thing, except her escape, which was as much as her
 life was worth. She even undertook to convey a
 letter to the next justice of peace, containing an
 account of her case and circumstances, and furnish-
 ed her with pen and ink for that purpose; the next
 morning the letter was writ, and delivered to the
 hostess, who pretended to send a special messenger
 with it, but instead of bringing back an answer, he
 returned in about an hour, and told her that Mr.
H——, for that was her husband's name, met him
 took the letter from him, and promised to bring an
 answer in an hour's time. Poor *Betty* was thunder-
 struck, and in convulsions for fear of the resent-
 ment of her tyrant. He came and breathed no-
 thing but revenge, and took it in a manner which
 she least suspected; he and the crew went out that
 evening,

evening, and proposed not to return till the next day, and left the disconsolate wife in charge with the hostess, whom she now was convinced had betray'd her. It was in vain to upraid her with it; she smothered her resentment, and bore with her presence with as much good manners as possible. They went to bed together, and in about an hour after the hostess pretended to get up for something, and return'd, as she thought, in a few minutes after. *Betty* fell presently into a little slumber and very little minded her bedfellow; but she was soon awaked by a noise in the room, and the voice of her husband, and two or three of his crew crying for a light: A light was brought, but by whom? the hostess whom *Betty* thought fast asleep by her side. The husband immediately drew the curtain, and discovered a fellow in naked bed with his spouse, who acted as mate of the Ship. He seemed in a dreadful rage, and threatned to stab his wife, with a cuttocr while she lay in a dead sound, but the rest of the ruffians held his hand, and he in bed started out of it, and made his escape out of the room: As soon as she came to herself, he dragged her out of bed, and beat her in a most unmerciful manner, two or three of them interceded to spare her a little, and he pretended to be over-come with their intreaties, and left the room, saying, damn the b—h, since *Tam* the mate has s—d her, I don't care if all the ships crew does so too, make the most of her, and shut the door after him. She was naked all but her shift, which no doubt inflamed the wretches, and now they had a toleration for their wickedness from their cursed captain, resolved to satisfy their lusts: They cast lots who should begin; and in spite of tears, struggles and imprecations, four of them enjoy'd her. They then permitted her to dress herself, and sent her with two of the gang on horse-

back

back a-cross the country, a road where she did not know one step, and left her in the same wood she had been taken from, but not before the two rascals had been as free with her as the rest.

When left alone, it was some comfort to her in all her calamities, that her mind was not consenting to any part of the violence that had been offered to her, and that she was so near her father's house, from whom she expected compassion, and leave to mourn her misfortunes in private, if not revenge of the injuries done her: pleased with these reflections, she left the wood, and set out for her father's farm, where she arrived just as one of the rascals who had brought her to the wood, was getting out of the gate, he passed by her with a sneer, put spurs to his horse and was soon out of sight. She entered the house and ran to her father, whom she saw in the parlour drowned in tears, he rose at the sight of her, but instead of meeting her with the fondness of a father, anger and rage kindled in his countenance, which was before overcast with grief, and with an angry tone, took her by the shoulder, saying, impudent strumpet, how dare you enter my roof, after loading me with so much infamy. Surprized at so unexpected a treatment from a much-lov'd father, she fell on her knees and clasped his in her arms, begging him for God's sake, to tell her her crime, and hear her misfortunes, which before were too much for human nature to bear; twisting himself from her, he pointed to a letter lying on the table, there, wretch, is your crime; read it, and see how you have dishonoured my house, and helped to bring my gray hairs with sorrow to my grave. She snatched up the letter which run thus.

To Mrs. Sarah M——ie

Madam,

I wrote to you on my landing, how I had succeeded at last, in spite of the coy resistance of your daughter, and how happy I promised myself to be, both in a wife and your alliance; but I reckon'd without my host, for on thursday last she meditated an escape, and wrote a letter to Mr. Justice R——n, charging me with a rape, and desiring his protection, &c. which I intercepted; and was good-natured enough to pass over, thinking by your advice, when we arrived with you, she might be brought to a reasonable sense of her duty and interest: But I was ill rewarded for my forgiveness; for that very night, on coming home late I found her in bed with T——m, my mate, and for ought I know, the whole ship's crew may have lain with her, at least four or five have confessed it. As she has so early discovered such a disposition, you'll not be surprized, I have order'd her to be set down on the very spot I took her from. I suppose her next journey will be to you, where no doubt, a person so happily cut out for intrigues, cannot want an excuse for so small an offence as she has been guilty of; as she denies to have consented to the marriage, I am glad it can be made none; but whether or not, I shall never trouble my head about her, but leave her punishment to heaven and her father. I am,

Madam,

Your most humble servant,

J. H——

She

She had no sooner read the letter, than she begged of her father to hear her story, which she would relate with the same sacred regard to truth, as if she was in the presence of her heavenly father at the last day. The old man naturally compassionate, but more so to a much-loved child, began to soften at her complaints, and disposed himself to listen to her melancholy narrative. But she had brought her story no further than her landing at *Haere*, when the furious step-mother entered the room like a hurricane, and spoke like a tempest. She was all noise, passion and opprobrious language; the husband begged of her to be calm, and hear his child; but in vain, she was convinced she was guilty, and insisted on his turning her out of doors that instant; the poor hen-peck'd father quitted the room, and left the termagant wife to do what she pleased, which was to turn her daughter-in-law a grazing.

She quitted her father's house with a heavy heart, and wearied limbs, and made a shift to reach about sun-set to a farmer's house, who lived within two miles of her father, and had formerly been a servant in his family. This happened to be the road, the rascals who brought her home had taken in their return, and she found her disgrace was there before her. She met with but a cold reception from the family, however they vouchsafed her shelter for that night: Next morning before she left it, she writ to her father a pathetic letter with all the dreadful circumstances of her misfortune, and sent it by a boy, on whom, with money, she prevailed to deliver it. But he returned with little comfort, and told her, her father was taken ill last night and could not be spoke with; and that her mother-in-law had taken her letter, to which she said there was no answer. The unhappy creature then set
out

out for one of her sister's houses; but scandal had taken wing, and prevented her every step she went, and prepossessed all mortals against her. Her sister who is naturally of a haughty disposition and never liked her much, treated her little better than her step-mother. She went to the other, and met with the same usage, and to her brother, who still used her worse; he refused to see her, and threatened if she did not leave his house, he would set his dogs loose upon her. What must she do? helpless, forsaken and alone, without money, without friends, and what is worse, loaden with infamy and slander. She was a thousand times tempted to put an end to her misery, by laying violent hands on herself; at last a thought struck into her head, to go for *London*, where, tho' she had no acquaintance, she hoped the tragical air of her story, would gain her some compassionate friend. Thus resolved, she took a place in the next waggon for the metropolis, and arrived at an inn in *Holbourn*, where she met in the tap-room with a good motherly looking woman; who officiously seemed to offer her service. I hasten *George* to a conclusion, and shall only inform you, of what I suppose you already partly guess, that the old woman was no other than a procuress, who made it her business to ply about inns, and pick up country girls for the use of the stewes. The prospect of want, before our young unfortunate's eyes, the despair of ever retrieving her reputation, made her an easy prey to this beldam, who introduced her to a noted bawdy house; and from that time to this, she has continued in the vocation, having gone thro' all the scenes of it, and is now at the lowest, that of a street-walker. I am,

Dear *George*,

Your friend, and most humble servant,

Henry Rakewell.

LETTER

LETTER XII.

Containing the secret History and Adventures of
Miss S—y W—th.

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield, Esq.

London, March, 20, 1747-8.

Dear George,

THE heroine of this epistle, is no less than a natural daughter to a noble earl, whom you know very well: as for the name of *W—th*, which she goes by, it is only borrowed; for it belongs to neither father nor mother. Her mother is a gentleman's daughter, in the county of *—*, where the earl has a seat for hunting, and now married to a justice of the peace in the same county, who knows nothing that his lady's pitcher was cracked before he had her. The intrigue was carried on with so much circumspection, that none but her mother, a waiting maid, and the mother-midnight who laid her, from whom I had the story, knows any thing of the matter to this day; for which reason, you must excuse me from naming real names, or even that of the county, that you may have no room to guess who I mean. Allow me then, to call the lady *Florinda* in the future part of my narrative. *Florinda*, the mother of Miss *W—th*, was about eighteen when she was introduced to the countess, the earl's mother, who came down that season with her son, to his seat in that county. The countess was mightily taken with the young lady, who had a very genteel, agreeable person and carriage, with an uncommon vivacity of temper, which suited much with the countess's disposition, who prevailed on her mama

to allow her to stay at their house, while the family remained there. The favour was too small to be refused, and Miss *Florinda*, who was left behind, became every day more in the good graces of the old peers, who had no other company with her for most part of the summer, except her old maid servant, and now and then the neighbouring gentry, who on hunting days dined with the earl. The peer was but a year or two more than of age, had an agreeable person, adorned with every accomplishment, to be expected in a fine gentleman. A week or two passed without any thing happening extraordinary between him and *Florinda*: he was at first more taken up with his hounds and hawks, than with the thoughts of gallantry. But two or three rainy days confining him at home, he found charms in the lovely *Florinda*, which kindled in him a warmer flame than the chase of the fly fox or timorous hare. In a little time he was quite enamoured of her person, and ravished with her sprightly wit; she sung charmingly, danced gracefully, and said so many witty things in conversation, that it was impossible not to be smitten with her perfections. For a day or two he adored her at a distance, and would willingly have declared his passion; but his pride hindered him on the one hand, and his sense of honour on the other. Her birth, tho' genteel, gave her no title to the name of his wife, and yet it was too high to be prostituted to that of a mistress; besides she was under the protection of his mother, and he must abuse the sanctuary of his house, to offer any indecency there; in short, he was in the greatest perplexity how to proceed; to forget her he could not; the sport, the field, the sound of the hound and horn became nauseous to him, since there he could not see *Florinda*, for she hated hunting of all things, and would not leap a ditch
on

on horseback, if to gain her the universe. He spent as much time with her as possibly he could with decency, and made his eyes and actions pour out in expressive eloquence their tender sentiments of his heart, which his lips durst not utter. The nymph understood the dumb language of love, felt the pleasing flame gently warm her heart, which now and then discovered itself by the unwilling heave of her snowy bosom, the conscious blush, and down-cast eye, whenever she chanced to encounter those of the earl's, which were always on the watch, to gain intelligence, from those mute emissaries, of the state of her heart. He knew the world too well, and had too good an opinion of the charms of his own person, to believe, that, and a coronet, could be looked upon with indifference, by an innocent country maid. He saw he made friends within before he declared himself openly, and judged if he could hit the critical minute, he might be sure of success; and had now nothing else to disturb him, but a little qualm of honour, which you know, where a fine woman is in the case, is easily got over by a young peer of three and twenty. He at last resolved to take the first opportunity to put himself out of a longing condition, and tried to corrupt her waiting maid. As nothing is proof against omnipotent gold, the wench promised to assist him in his design upon her young mistress: He knew he must attack her at some unguarded hour, and ruin her at the first onset; otherwise prudence would direct her, if he lost one opportunity, never to give him another, by leaving the house directly. The house was not proper for the scene of action, and it was some time before a proper place could be pitched upon; at last, as women are always quickest at contrivance, when mischief is going forward, the waiting maid pitched upon

the place of action, and gave out the order of battle. The season was warm, and his mistress loved bathing, and had once since she came there, bathed in the basin at the lower end of a long paterre, far enough out of hearing, or sight of any part of the house; she undertook to persuade her to bathe that night, when all the family was in bed, having a key to the garden thro' the antichamber or the apartment she lay in; and desired my lord to be there and proceed as he saw proper; that for her part she would be so frightened, she would run away at the sight of him, and leave the lady to shift for herself. The trap was laid, and poor *Florinda* easily caught in it; for about twelve, undressed all but a dimity petticoat and loose nightgown, she entered the garden attended only by her faithless maid. They stripped and went into the basin, and having bathed a few minutes, *Florinda* stepped out in order to dry herself, the maid followed and with a large towel was wiping her mistress before, and keeping her in idle chat, till my lord stole softly behind her and caught her fast, naked as she was, in his arms. She shrieked out, and the maid run as if twenty devils had been chasing her, snatching up her ladies cloaths and part of her own. *Florinda* struggled, pray'd, and entreated his lordship to desist, for by the moon she could discover whom she had to deal with; he stifled her with kisses, grasped her naked to his panting bosom, and swore he meant her no harm, but would give his estate for the continuance of so much bliss, as he enjoy'd to have her thus in his arms. She begged of him to allow her to put on a gown, and promised not to stir from him; for she saw she must endeavour her escape by fair means, since she was entirely in his power. He consented that she should; however she had nothing left to put on, but

but her maid's gown, which she made shift, in some measure, to cover herself with. She then took the courage to upraid his lordship for his inhospitable rudeness; he attributed all to the force of mighty love, and swore unless she eased his anguish he must perish: She was prevailed on to walk to a jessamine shade hard by, and sat down on a bank, there he poured out the softest complaints, and the most ardent vows of constancy, love and fidelity; and not to detain you with the reluctance on one side the persuasions on the other, you must know at last love got the better of honour. The peer was happy that night, and several succeeding nights, till evident marks and tokens discovered to the nymph, that she was with child. The remorse, reflection, &c. that followed, are but common topicks, I leave you to fancy them; but means was thought on to smother the secret. The earl, tho' the greatest criminal, in terms the fullest of remorse, broke the story to *Florinda's* mother, and told it so much to her advantage, that the wise mother expressed no resentment at her unhappy daughter, but helped her to conceal it during her pregnancy, and found means to have her delivered by a prudent midwife, at a time when no soul was in the family but herself and the waiting maid, and her crime was forgiven for the sake of secrecy; the child, which proved to be a girl, was sent out to nurse by mother midnight, and is now Miss *W——th*, the subject of the remaining part of this epistle.

The lady soon recovered, and in less than a twelvemonth after, was married to her present husband; the earl having given her mother privately a handsome sum to encrease her fortune, beyond what she could otherways have afforded her. Mother-midnight had a sum deposited for the maintenance of the child, and brought her up as her

own niece, which even *miss* at this day, knows nothing to the contrary of.

She was kept in a cheap part of the country, till she was fit for education, and was then brought up to town, to a boarding school; where she remained till about sixteen, and then went to live with her supposed aunt, who at that time lived and practised in *London*, which proved in the end her ruin: For as these women are let into secrets of intrigues which none else are, her niece was necessarily made privy to some of them, and too soon learned more than was fit for a young woman of strict modesty.

It happened that a young lady who had cracked a commandment with a young officer of distinction, came to discharge her conscience of the load, at our midwife's house. She was some time before she recovered, or could venture abroad; during her stay, as *miss* waited of her for the most part, a strict intimacy commenced between them; and as the lady's paramour durst not come to that house, *miss* was employ'd to carry letters between him and the afflicted fair. For two or three days she only acted the part of a messenger, but after that the officer began to look upon her with greater attention, and finding her a plain simple girl without much art, a tolerable share of beauty, and very young, he thought of supplying his necessities with her, while madam remained in the straw: He was young, handsome, of a noble family, and made a glaring appearance in his scarlet coat, and feather; which with a little flattery, a few trifling presents, and the common promises of support and constancy, soon gained *miss* to his desires. He persuaded her to leave her aunt, took lodgings for her near *Cavendish-Square*, deserted his former mistress, and kept this new one very grand, for near a twelvemonth; but then grew weary of her, and dropt

dropt her. Her aunt so much resented her conduct, that she would not see her, and she knew no body else to apply to ; nor indeed was she very solicitous about making friends in a virtuous way ; her design was to live grand as she had done in the captain's time, and looked out for a proper chap to her purpose : She had been acquainted with a good many officers of the guards, by the captain's means, and out of them picked two or three, who kept her successively for some months longer ; at last the war with *France* breaking out, most of her gallants were called abroad, and she was now obliged to apply to coffee-houses and Bagnios for business. That supported her a season or two longer ; but time and the accidents common to these places, sent her at last a commoner upon the town, where she has been for a year or two, and heartily repents her leaving her old aunt ; who has now left *London*, and lives retired from business in the country. I met miss some months ago in her walks, and had from herself, the manner of her being debauched, and learned the name of her aunt, and the last time I was at *Bath*, as the village she lives in is in the way, I called of the old woman, and endeavoured to persuade her to do something for her niece, whom I found inclinable to reclaim. It was on that occasion she told me the secret of her birth, and some others, which for the girl's sake I cannot mention ; but she is resolved, as she says, to let the jade bite of the bridle a little, before she gives her any countenance ; but when she knows her to be thoroughly reclaimed, and wearied of her present course of life, I believe whatever may happen to the old woman, she will be provided for. I am,

Dear George,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Henry Rakewell.

LETTER

L E T T E R XIII.

Containing Mr. Bellfield's Answer to the foregoing Letters, with some general Remarks upon the whole.

George Bellfield Esq; to Captain Henry Rakewell.

Bellfield-Hall, April, 15, 1747.

Dear Hall,

IT'S now almost time to release you from the fatigue of your new employment, of prescribing gratis to the sick. There is something very whimsical in our dispositions, that we seldom value any thing which we come at cheap; if one of the learned dons of the colledge of physicians, had writ but one hundredth part of what you have done for me, and I had paid the ordinary fees, for as many of his useles receipts, I should have thanked the grave doctor, and ten to one but I had fancied myself much the better for his prescriptions: But as you have acted like a meer quack, forced your advice upon me for nothing, I am so foolish as to find myself in *statu quo*, and not one jot the better or wiser for all your wise lectures. I could not help smiling to myself, when in one of yours, you flattered yourself that you had touched my malady to the quick, and quite altered my opinion of the fair forcerefs's of your metropolis, and concluded me a convert to your doctrine, meerly because I was willing to give you a fair hearing, and did not care to interrupt you in the thread of your wise narratives.

You

You old rakes are strange creatures; when young you have all of you the same notions I have at present, but when old and past the active scenes of life, like the witches, you read all your prayers backward, and praise those creatures for angels, whom you have used like frail mortals, and once thought no better than *Indian* devils. Were you to keep your notions to your selves, you might be tolerable; but when you turn pimps for matrimony, and plot to lay in chains and fetters the free-born youths of *Great Britain*, there is no bearing your impertinence; for what does all your wise relations tend to, but to persuade me, that tho' I have found all beauty sophisticated, all female modesty a cheat, and every woman I ever knew actuated either by lust, caprice or folly, yet that I must believe them all angels, fit to be trusted with the domestic concerns of my house because extravagant, with my peace because they are termagants where they have any power, and with the honour of my bed because chaste as the *Grecian* matron; in a word, that I must submit my neck to the yoke, and permit a fellow in a black gown to conjure me into a circle out of which nothing but death can relieve me, and saddle me with an heir to my state, about which, the parson and all the parish may have club'd towards the getting. All this I must do because you have given me a dozen instances, where the girls of the town have been seduced to that state of misery, by the treachery of men and the wickedness of their friends.

I have as much compassion for these poor wretches as any man on earth, where I consider them as a part of the species, but when I consider that their misery, is the effect of their folly, caprice, and innate wickedness, I pity them with that kind of pity only, due to a malefactor I see punished for
his

his crimes, which is far short of that kind of compassion you would extort from me, on their account.

But you have handled the argument with a little too much art, to expect success from it ; for you have picked out, as instances, to draw a general conclusion from, some particular cases which I grant to be fact ; but you have chosen only such, as were betray'd by men or their relations, of which you might have given many more with equal truth ; but if you had taken the girls of the town in a lump, and given their history as they occur'd to you by chance, you would find that where one has been seduced by treachery of others, ten has been undone by their own folly and natural levity of temper.

As I know you intend to publish what you have writ me, to which I give my consent, only upon these conditions, that you publish as a second part, the collection of memoirs which I send you by the bearer ; where I have from facts, consistent with my own knowledge, given you a history of women in their natural colours, and made it I think appear plain, that they as often seduce our sex as we theirs ; and that the follies, vices, and vanities so predominant among mankind, are owing to that part of the species alone ; and from these instances I think you must conclude, that more of the girls of the town are vicious and abandoned, from a natural proneness and propensity to vice, than from the force or efficacy of any outward temptation, or the wrong byas of their education. For in every instance in these papers I send you, you will find that the ladies, tho' they launch into all the excesses of ungovern'd appetite, yet had all the advantages of birth, fortune, and a regular education enforced by the best example of their parents or guardians,
and

(97)

and consequently could blame nobody for their wickedness, but the natural bent of their own minds. I grant they had temptations, but then they are common, and such as any creature of the smallest degree of rational prudence, might avoid yielding to. I am,

Dear Hall,

Your friend and most humble servant,

George Bellfield.

F I N I S.

(97)

and consequently could blame nobody for their
wickedness; but the respect of their own
minds. I grant they were tyrants, but then
they are common, and such as any creature of the
lowest degree of rationality might avoid
yielding to. I am,

Dear Sir,

Your friend and most humble servant,

George Bellfield.

W I N I S

THE
HUMOURS
OF
FLEET-STREET,
COVENT-GARDEN,
AND THE
S T R A N D.

[Price Two-Shillings.]

THE

THE

HUMOURS

OF

THE



GOVERNMENT

AND THE

STANDARD

OF

[Price Two Shillings]

THE
HUMOURS
OF

FLEET-STREET,
COVENT-GARDEN,

AND THE
STRAND;

BEING THE
LIVES and ADVENTURES of the most
noted Ladies of Pleasure;

WHETHER
In the Rank of KEPT-MISTRESSES,
OR
The more humble Station of Ladies of the Town

PART II.

By an OLD SPORTSMAN.

L O N D O N :

Printed for *Anthony Wright*, near *Covent-Garden*; and
sold at all the Booksellers and Pamphlet-Shops.

THE
HUMOURS

OF

THE EYE

CONJUGATION

AND THE

STRAIN

THE



Lives and
noted

WHETHER

In the Rank of Knights-Masters

OR

The more humble Station of Ladies of the Town

PART II

OLD SPERM

LONDON

Printed for Anthony Weyland, near St. Paul's Church, London, and
sold at all the Book-stalls and Printing-houses.

(1)

THE
SECOND PART
OF THE
H U M O U R S
OF
FLEET-STREET, &c.

LETTER I.

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield, Esq;

Dear GEORGE,

I Received your ill-natur'd packet, and by it find your malady is not upon the mending hand; but I see no symptom as yet about you, that should induce me to pronounce you incurable; I have still hopes, that a steady adherence to your former regimen will effectuate your cure, and reconcile you once more to women and good company: And, for that reason, I have given myself the trouble, out of pure charity, to send you a new sett of original pictures, much upon my former plan.

I assure you, *George*, I have taken no pains to cull or pick them from my Collection, but have taken them just as they occur'd to my memory ; yet still you must observe, that the ruinous catastrophe which attends each of them, is owing to some wrong turn in their education, or to the malice and treachery of those, whose duty it was to have protected their innocence, and guarded their virtue against every attack.

I would not be thought, my friend, to insinuate, that women are all angels by nature ; by no means, I know as well as you, that there are some of them naturally vicious and constitutionally wicked, and that when they are so, they carry vicious habits into greater excess than most men : But what can you imply from the concession ? Not, sure, that the whole sex are of this devilish stamp ; nor that the generality of them are so ; to what purpose then your ill-natur'd collection of characters * ? But to tell us what we all knew before, that there are individuals of that sex, that are not only a scandal to women, but to the whole species. Suppose I had gratified you, by publishing them just as you sent them me, (which I have not absolutely determin'd against) it would have brought the argument between you and me no nearer a conclusion, since your characters prove no more than this, that there have been some women monstrously abandoned, without those temptations with which I have endeavour'd to alleviate the false steps of those, whose lives I transmitted you ; but they are far from sufficient for establishing the general character of the sex which you gave me in the first letter, which gave rise to the correspondence* ;

* Alluding to a collection of lives of infamous women, inclos'd by Mr. *Bellfield* to Mr. *Rakewell*, in answer to the characters in the first Part. See the last Letter, pag. 94.

dence *; and, give me leave to observe to you, a secret, which perhaps you did not dream of, when you made out that ugly bundle of defamation, that there is not one of these women you have mentioned, who have been undoubtedly as wicked as it possibly can be supposed human nature capable of, but owe all their vices and misfortunes to a wrong turn in their education, and not to any innate principle in their constitution, as women. In some of them it plainly appears, from your own account of them, as Captain *Wiseman's* niece, *Polly Beaumont*, *Miss Thirleston*, *Eleonora*, *Lady Betty*, and *Miss C——*, where you have pointed out those errors in their education, which proved fatal to their future happiness, and laid the foundation of those scenes of infamy which attended them. These then, are in point for me, and I might have used them consistent with my own plan. The rest of them are not so clear at first sight; yet, upon serious examination, we may trace their misfortunes to the source, which you have industriously endeavoured to conceal, as much as possible; and we can find, that nature is by no means to blame, but only bad habits and a careless education. For I would have you to consider, *George*, that you cast an oblique reflection upon human nature in general, when you suppose any one of them, much more so when you suppose the better half of them to be by nature, make, and constitution, meer devils. Suppose some other being, some creature belonging to another class superior to us, should endeavour to prove that all mankind are naturally vicious; and to prove it, furnish you with a list of all the villainies since *Adam*; would not you conclude he argued maliciously, and would you not endeavour to prove that man is naturally a sociable in-

* See Letter I. in the first Part.

offensive animal ; and that whatsoever vices appear in him, are owing to bad habits and wrong turns in his education, but not to any deficiency in his natural make, or any innate principle in his nature ? And why may not you permit the same reasoning to be offered in defence of the better and fairest half of the species ? Were they, *George*, to sit down and entertain the public with the history of all the rakes, beaux and bullies about town, don't you think the representation would give you a very mean opinion of yourself, and oblige you not only to quit the city and its diversions, but to commence hermit and shun the sons of men in general ? It should have that effect, by the same parity of reason that you despise all women, because you suppose a few of them very wicked. But it would notwithstanding be a very absurd method of proceeding, as from such examples no general rule can be drawn, that can reflect upon the natural rectitude of our nature ; for I may venture to affirm, that there are very few constitutional vices, and that a careful and virtuous education will undoubtedly get the better of such as are to be found in some particular persons ; and that it is only where that is wanting, or a wrong turn given it, that human nature springs up deformed. The soul of man is originally a pure *tabula rasa*, capable of any impression either of good or evil, and receives its bent from habits and education. We are not then, *George*, to blame providence, or cast reflections upon human nature, when we see any individuals of our species spring up with monstrous appetites and fiend-like inclinations, since the deformity is not owing to their natural make, but to the carelessness of parents, friends and relations, who have had the management of them when young, when their tender minds were susceptible
of

of every impressi^on, without any capacity of making an election of such as were most for its happiness. When we see such, we ought to afford them our pity, and tenderest compassion, and endeavour all in our power to reclaim them, and bring them to the light and use of that reason which bad habits has obscur'd.

You must own, my friend, that our sex produces as many monstrous births, as the other ; and you must own, that the crime in us is highly aggravated, as our education, generally speaking, is better than theirs. There is more pains taken to form our minds to useful knowledge, and store us with useful ideas, by which means our understandings are, or at least ought to be enlarg'd, and our reasoning faculty improv'd to the utmost advantage ; but if, with all these helps, we prove vicious and immoral, ought we not in charity to make some allowances for the fair sex, who are deny'd these props to their virtue. It's not so much a miracle to me, considering the education of that lovely sex, that so many of them are abandoned, as it is, that more are not so, by the numerous and prevailing temptations to which they are exposed, without any other fence than the native integrity of their hearts ; and as there are so few, in comparison of the number of the whole, it convinces me rather that there is something in their natural make more virtuous and less liable to the corruption of vice than ours, and that if they enjoy'd in general the great advantages we possess, they would excel us as much in every virtue and beauty of the mind, as they do in the charms of their persons.

For God's sake, *George*, leave off these puritanic airs, and don't find fault with the vices of the women ; that they are so, is mostly our fault ; and I believe, the greatest quarrel that most young gentlemen

gentlemen have with them, is, that they are too virtuous. I know that is your secret sentiment, and could almost lay my life, that your greatest quarrel with the town, is, that you have met with a d—d virtuous woman, who has withstood all your attacks; that is certainly the case. This has oblig'd you to leave us in pet, and take the pious resolution of libelling the whole sex, because you found one would not stoop to your lure. Come, *George*, come up this winter, and renew the attack, raise new batteries; we shall all enter your service as auxiliaries, and take the place by storm, rather than we shall lose your company, and suffer you to die of the pip. In the mean time, till you come down, I shall send my ordinary dose every week, which I know you will read, if it is but to have the pleasure to hear with how much zeal men have made war upon defenceless women, and how often they have succeeded in their base attempts against all the laws of honour and decency. But I have led you into so long a chat at present, that I shall not trouble you by this post, but permit this epistle to pass as an introduction to what I am to offer hereafter. I am,

Dear George,

Your friend, and most humble servant,

Henry Rakewell.

LETTER

L E T T E R II.

*Containing the History of Belinda, debauch'd by
Captain B——nt.*

Captain Henry Rakewell, to George Bellfield, Esq;

Dear George,

London, 22 Dec. 1748.

I Had almost finish'd my prescription for this week, when a late conversation made me alter my mind. At the club, on *Wednesday* last, your old acquaintance Captain B——nt appeared, who had been absent for several Nights; as he has a certain lively pertness in his conversation we were all glad to see, and curious to know, what had deprived us of his company. My Lord *Courtswell*, first asked him the question, which honest *Dick* was not very unwilling to answer. Why, says the Captain, Gentlemen, you are all my friends, and amongst such there never ought to be any secrets: I must tell you, I like your good company as much as any man in *England*, but I hope you will not be offended, tho' I own to you I have been in company these few days past I liked much better. That could be nothing else than a wench, Captain, return'd the peer; some new face, a green maidenhead, no doubt; come, confess; have not I guess'd right? Sure nothing else could keep you from your friends and a bottle. Why, my noble peer, you have just hit the mark; it was a kind willing wench, but no maidenhead, no new face, but an old, a very old acquaintance, but one whose pitcher I had been at the cracking of; and yet, I assure you, I was as much delighted, nay more at this last rencounter, than I was when I first pluck'd the opening bud,
and

and unty'd her virgin zone. That's pretty odd, return'd *Jack Sly*, that a man of your taste, Captain, should speak so lusciously of an old affair, whom I have heard bid as good a price for a maidenhead as any man in *England*, and pretend to be as soon cloy'd; but there must be some mystery in the matter, it must be the manner of your second interview that has something new in it, or else the remembrance of some circumstance of the first part of the scene, which could give a relish to the same dish at a second course. Come, Captain, explain yourself, and let us into the secret how a man may so far impose upon his judgment as to feast upon broken fragments, the mere offal of a former banquet.

Truly, gentlemen, if you are in the humour of list'ning to a plain *Yorkshire* intrigue, I don't care if I relate the whole affair to you, provided Captain *Rakewell* promises not to draw any of his satirical remarks, or parson-like draw use, application, and inference from the text. I promis'd to lend him my attention, without uttering one word to his prejudice; and *Dick* proceeded to his narration, as near as I can remember, in words to the following purport:

You must know then, gentlemen, that about two years ago, I went down in the stage to *St. Albans*, there happened to be none in the coach but myself, and a young lady, who is to be the heroine of my narration, whom I shall beg leave to call by the name of *Belinda* and her maid. She was dress'd in a pearl-colour'd riding habit, with a cap and feather, which gave such an agreeable air to her face, naturally a good one, that at first sight, I found my heart go pit-apat, and a violent inclination sprung up in an instant to be better acquainted with my pretty traveller.

We

We soon enter'd into conversation, and I found her a *Yorkshire* young lady, just returning from her education to the country, in company with a relation of her's who was to meet her at *St. Alban's*. Her face, her wit and humour appear'd to me so agreeable, that I wished from my soul her journey with me had been longer; for tho' I judg'd by her complexion, that she might not prove impregnable, if properly attack'd, yet I plainly foresaw that her wit and the d——n'd prejudices of an honest education, would hold out a longer siege, than between *London* and *St. Albans*, since she was not a person to be taken by surprize or storm; but the slow and regular laws of love-war.

However, I resolv'd not to lose the small time I was likely to enjoy her company, but said all the pretty things my dull fancy could suggest, as proper to give her a good opinion of my understanding; for as to my person, I happen'd to be dress'd in the negligent genteel, and had no manner of doubt, but that would speak sufficiently for it self, and I was not out of my conjectures, for *Belinda* examined me from head to foot, and I could read in her countenance, a smile of approbation as to the outward visible man, and before we got to our inn, I had gained so much upon her graces, that she obligingly acknowledged, that she wished she might have the pleasure of such good company; during the rest of her journey, I returned the compliment, and was just going to be so gallant, as to offer to give her my company as far as *York*, when an old fashioned weather-beaten hag of an aunt of hers, who had been waiting for her coming at the inn, came gaping into the room, and spoiled my project, for I could see caution and mistrust in the old beldam's countenance, and therefore thought it quite improper to proceed with my offer, since I could

not expect to succeed, while my fair-one must be under the direction of such an *Argos*, I e'en took my leave handsomely, tho' I would have given a limb to have had a run at *Belinda*. I did my business at *St. Albans*, in an hour or two, and to allay the fire rais'd in my blood, by being immured so long, and so near so much youth and beauty I was obliged before I took coach again, to be a little familiar with the bar-maid at the inn. The physic had some effect, and abated the most violent of the feverish symptoms, but had not strength enough to put *Belinda* out of my head, I thought of her, dreamed of her, and could speak of nothing else but my *Yorkshire* mistress, for several months after; at last I went down to pass the season at *Scarborough*, resolving to make an excursion from thence, in quest of my pearl-colour'd huntress.

I staid there some weeks in expectation, that she would make her appearance amongst the rest of the gentry of that county, who frequent that place, but I waited in vain, and my chagrine was so great, that it sowerd all other enjoyments. The *York* races came on, and as I had learned from her, that her father's seat was not far from that city, I took that jaunt in full expectation of meeting her, tho' I had no relish for that kind of diversion. Fortune was at last favourable to my wishes, for on the last day of the races, I saw my nymph on the course, in a very genteel equipage belonging to her father; I made up to the coach with all the eagerness of a bridegroom, and made my compliments in the genteelest terms I could devise. My fair-one knew me at first sight, and made me a very obliging answer, and told her papa that she had been a fellow traveller with that gentleman, from *London* to *St. Albans*, that he treated her with great respect

respect and civility, the squire made me a bow, and thanked me on his daughter's account, but had not the good manners to invite me to his house, which lay about two miles from the course. I own I expected that compliment from one or other of them, and was very much in the dumps, that I was so much disappointed; and to add to my chagrine, I was interrupted of any further conversation, by the starting of the horses, for the second heat, and could not for my life come up with them, for the rest of the day: I kept sight of the coach as it left the field, and saw it put up at a private house, which I since learnt was that aunt I had seen at *St. Albans*, and had now no other hopes of seeing my charmer, unless fate should put it in her head to come to the assembly that evening. I dressed myself as gaily as my travelling wardrobe would permit, and had the happiness to see, converse and dance with her, for none came with her but a daughter of that old piece of furniture, I describ'd before, who was too young to make any observations to my prejudice.

Belinda behaved with great frankness, and owned a pleasure in having that opportunity of my company, and excused herself that she could not invite me to her father's house, since he was a man peculiar in his temper, and had an irreconcilable hatred to every thing, in the most distant degree, relating to the military, to whom he could not prevail on himself, tho' otherwise a well-bred man, to be commonly civil, and that it would be as much, as incurring his displeasure in the highest manner, if she acknowledged that I had danced, or spoke with her; for added she, I had a lecture longer than the course, for having said but a civil thing of you, when you made me your compliments on the field. All men, captain, have their particular foibles, and

it is not the duty of children, to be too severe on those of their parents, since we are ignorant of the motive of those things that seem odd to us, and at all events, owe an unreserv'd obedience to their will. To this obliging declaration of my fair mistress, I replied that I was heartily sorry, that any thing in my circumstances should give her father any prepossession against me, since her amiable conversation in that little journey from *London* to *St. Albans*, had made such a deep impression in my mind, that ever since I had not been able to relish any Thing, but what help'd to rivet her dear idea in my soul; but that if bearing his Majesty's commission in the service of my country was the only obstacle to my happiness, I should make no hesitation to sacrifice that and every thing else, that stood in the way of my hopes; but madam, added I, may I flatter myself that this declaration is not disagreeable to you, and that you will not join in augmenting the unreasonable prepossession of your father; to which the lovely charmer replied with a blush, which set all the combustible matter about me in a blaze, that her conduct should always be correspondent to the duty she owed the best of fathers, whose experience was better able to direct her, in so important a point, than her own inclinations. Tho' this answer was not so explicit, as a man of my sanguine disposition hoped for, yet the place would admit of no closer parly, and I was obliged to be satisfied with the progress I had made, which I judged was more than she expressed, from the little confusion I saw her in, for the remaining part of the evening, and the bewitching tremor I felt her in, as often as I touch'd her hand in the dance, and the soft stollen glances, I perceived she shot at me with her eyes, as often as mine were not fixed on her's.

The

The assembly broke up, and I was obliged to part with her, without the pleasure of seeing her home, or a farewell kiss; however, a tender squeeze of the hand, returned by a tender cast in her eyes, sent me home pretty well satisfied that I had some friends within the garrison, who might be of some service, if fortune would give me an opportunity of lying down in form before the place.

She left *York* early next morning, and I returned to *Scarborough*, there to contrive how I should prosecute my suit; my brain, which happens at all times to be very barren of plots, was remarkably so at this time, and a week had passed in the most restless anxiety before I could think of any thing, that could so much as bring me to a second interview, when I chanced to sup one evening with a clergyman of that county, who among other things in conversation, asked me if I knew ever a gentleman qualified for a tutor, to a youth of some distinction, I carelessly asked who the youth was, and found all my spirits in a flutter, when the parson told me it was for the son of such a gentleman, my mistress's father. After a little pause, I told him I knew a young student, lately come from the university, who I doubted not but to be sufficiently qualified, and that it would be laying me under an obligation, if he would recommend him, as he was a distant relation of mine. The good-natured parson without any scruple, told me the father had writ to him, to provide one as soon as possible, and that he was glad he had it in his power to oblige me, by introducing my relation, to a family, where he would be used in a very gentleman-like manner. As sir, added he, your friend is now at *London*, and as I shall be at *Oxford*, for which place I set out to-morrow, when he comes down, I shall give you a letter, to give him when he arrives

sives here, which will be sufficient to introduce him to his patron. Overjoyed that my plot succeeded so well, I called for pen and ink, and the priest wrote a very handsome letter in behalf of *Jonathan Teachwell, M. A.* I put the passport in my pocket, and put about the glass with great spirit, hoping out of this, to work something for the interest of the court of love, tho' hitherto I had no distinct notion of the plan I intended to follow.

Before we parted, we had got pretty mellow, so that my love-plot slept soundly for that night, and a great part of the next day, but the fumes of the debauch being evaporated, I called a council of war in my pericranium, to consider of what use the parson's letter could be to my affairs. I really had a relation of that name, who was fitly qualified for a tutor, whose circumstances would make the place acceptable; who at first view I mentioned to the priest, having a confus'd notion in my head, that he might help to carry on an intrigue, as well as teach greek and latin; but on second thoughts I considered the character of the man, that he was one of your queer honourable fellows, that would not do, what dull rogues call a bad thing, tho' to gain an immortal maidenhead, and that perhaps from his mistaken notions of honour, would think himself under an indispensable necessity, to divulge my intentions, to preserve the chastity of his patron's house. Therefore he was not for my purpose: My next design was to find out some less scrupulous pedant, who would personate my relation, teach the son greek and latin, and the daughter the language of nature, pure unfettered love, but I had some jealous qualms, lest such a rogue might cater for himself, take up the first fruits, and leave me but the gleanings of his harvest. This determined me at last, to turn pedagogue myself, and

and *Jove*-like, undergo at least, one transformation, for the sake of my dear *Belinda*.

This project, the oftener I considered it, the better I liked, and could find no visible objection to it, unless the parson should take it into his head, to visit the family, before I had brought matters to bear, and so discover the cloven foot; but as in all great projects, something must be left to chance, that part I trusted in the hands of madam Fortune. I own I had some qualms about the bad use I was going to make of the trust the good priest reposed in me, but as you know some have no conscience, I boldly prepared for my undertaking. I ordered my servants to remain at *Scarborough*, and set out alone, dressed as much like a young student as I could devise, and on entering the gentleman's avenue, set my phiz, in as grave and learn'd a position as possible.

It was towards evening when I arrived, and I was soon introduced to the squire, who had not the least notion that he had ever seen my face in his life. I delivered my letters of credence, and was made heartily welcome, and after swilling down near half a gallon of *Yorkshire* ale, with toast and nutmeg, and making a breach in the walls of a cold venison pasty, my charge, an unlick'd whelp of twelve or thirteen years of age, was delivered over to my custody, with a large ferula, as the symbol of livery and seisin, and the ensigns of the sovereign power, with which I was invested. The great baboon trembled every limb of him, and was as much afraid to lay his paw upon me, as if I had been a hedge-hog, and look'd and gap'd, as frighted out of his wits. I was willing to relieve the eas out of his pannic, and told young master that he was to look upon me as his friend and companion, and not as his tyrant, and that whatever power his
father

father was pleased to invest me with, I should never use it but with reluctance, and when absolutely compelled to it, and in token that I did not intend to use harsh means, but when all other failed, I now committed the ferula to the fire. The young cub seeing that dreadful instrument in the devouring element, grin'd a smile, and ventured to shake hands with me. In about an hour after, supper was brought in, and with it my charming *Belinda* appeared, and took the head of the table, for she had no mother living. Her father introduced me to her, as one recommended by Dr. R—, his very good friend; I had the pleasure of a salute, the first I ever had, and it set me all over in such an ecstasy, that it quite altered the œconomy of my pedagogue countenance; however, as I was desired to say grace, I contracted my features into a devote ogle, and pronounced the benediction very piously. I saw my charmer eye me very closely; during the whole time of supper, and now and then I thought I saw her bosom heave quicker than ordinary, and her colour come and go; which I construed to her finding some resemblance in sir Domine's phiz, to the features of your humble servant, in *propria persona*. When the bottle and glasses appeared, and she had drank to the church and king, and another to my success in my new charge, she vanished, and left the squire and me to empty the remainder.

When she was gone, I could do no less than compliment my patron, on the accomplishments of so fine a young lady, which I found he took very well, and gave him an opportunity to tell me, that she had a mighty inclination to learn *French* and *Italian*, and wished that if I understood those languages, that I would take the trouble to teach her, and that he would on that account, make an addition

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tion to my allowance ; my heart bounced with joy, at the mention of the word, and I would not have wanted the smattering I have of *French* and *Italian*, for the most christian king's dominions. I undertook to give her all the assistance I could, and much to do to confine my extacy within just bounds, and from the observation of the wary parent. He seemed pleas'd, and promised to deliver that part of my charge next day.

Not to detain you long on trifling particulars, know once for all, that I entered upon my office, and was prouder of my then charge than when I led a hundred brave fellows up to the trenches at *Fontenoy*, and would not change my present employment, for that of first minister of state. But dear *George*, I forget that my letter has got beyond the legal dimensions of a frank, and must therefore defer the remainder of captain *B——*'s narration till next post ; in the mean time, I am, with friendly sincerity,

Dear *George*,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

Henry Rakewell.

L E T T E R III.

Being a continuation of Captain B——nt's, narrative of his intrigue with Belinda.

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield, Esq;

Dear *George*,

I N my last, I left captain *B——nt* fully installed in his new profession, as a private tutor to the young squire and his sister, and expressing the rapturous pleasure he took, in being

Part II.

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near

near his dear *Belinda*, and the prospect he had of the success of his pious plot ; I now proceed to the rest of his narration, which, as in the last, take in the captain's own words, and suppose him going on without a break in his address to the club.

But why gentlemen should I detain you with a recital of the pleasures I then fancied to myself ; you all know what joy you feel when in the presence of a beloved mistress, the ravishing pleasure that results from a thousand little harmless incidents, to which the plodding part of mankind are utter strangers and look upon as meer trifles, and consequently can judge how happy I was, to be daily in conversation with my fair charmer, and gaining every hour upon her esteem ; but that pleasure had its alloy : I appeared to her in the mean occupation of a mercenary tutor, and my stile and address were necessarily correspondent to that disguise, and tho' I believed she had an uncommon opinion of my parts and erudition, yet that did not suffice me, I wanted to give her an idea of my parts as a lover ; my abilities as a man, was what I wanted her to take notice of ; but she poor girl had no more thoughts of my sex, than she had of the pictures in the hangings, and saw this fine person of mine, of which I am so fond, with wonderful indifference, tho' I took all the pains in the world to set it off to the best advantage as far as I could, consistent with the propriety of my assumed character ; but hang it, there is something so formal in a plain frock and bob wig, with the sanctified turn I was always obliged to give my phiz, that I fancy I appeared quite another man, than what I did when dressed in a red coat and feather ; nothing it seems of the captain appeared about me, I began actually to think that I had really turned pedant, and that the devil out of spite, had truly metamorphosed

metamorphosed me into a book-worm. For tho' I sighed, and ogled with the same breath and eyes I did in the stage-coach, and when alone with my fair pupil, said, as I thought, a great many brilliant things, yet they all passed with no more notice, than if I had repeated so many texts of scripture to a set of *London* rakes, and raised no more idea of the captain, than if such a person had not been in *verum natura*. What had I to do in this pinch? I had spent a week or ten days in the house, without the smallest prospect of reaping any thing for all my labour, I had not even had the pleasure of a kiss but twice, and that by way of forfeit, at questions and commands, I had kept lent all this while, which you know, my friends, was an intolerable mortification to a man of my complection, to be tied up for a whole fortnight, with all my senses and appetites keen, and my blood warm, from every morsel of dear delicious woman, was what flesh and blood could not bear. I resolved to make a bold push, and know my fate at once; to this purpose, I brought about a discourse, when *Belinda* and I were alone, about the military, and had the pleasure to hear her lament her father's aversion to gentlemen of that profession, since she had observed, by what little knowledge she had of some of them, that they were not such dangerous creatures as his prepossessions against them, had represented them, and among others whom she knew of that class, was pleased to mention your humble servant, with particular marks of esteem. She had no sooner mentioned my name, with such kind acknowledgements of my civility to her, in the little journey in the stage-coach, and my complaisance at the *York* races, than my colour went and came, like a girl on the first declaration of love, and my heart leaped up to my mouth with joy, to hear that

I was not only not forgot, but remembered with uncommon esteem. I even fancied my charming mistress sighed when she mentioned my name; and that a lovely blush o'erspread her countenance in token, that the bare idea gave a warm turn to her blood, I thought this a fair opportunity to push a little further, and told her, that it was to that gentleman's recommendation to Doctor R——, that I owed the pleasure of my settlement in that family; this declaration added a fresh glow of joy to her lovely face, and I had the satisfaction to hear her continue the praises of captain B———*nt* for almost half an hour together, and dwell upon the gaiety of his humour, and the agreeableness of his person, with all the fluency of female rethoric, and with a kind of warmth of expression, as convinced me that the captain in his proper person, would meet with a very proper reception; with that thought, I gazed her full in the face, laid aside as much of my sanctified physiognomy as possible, and assumed every air and feature peculiar to the captain, but still she was so dull, as not to see thro' the disguise, there is such an infinite difference between a gay fluttering spark of the blade, and a dull plodding pedant, it was impossible the two ideas could coincide in one mind, and therefore I was about to declare myself, and by way of introduction, had told her that I had the honour to be related to the captain, and was thought by every body, to be very like him, so much, that change of urels has passed us for each other, upon our most intimate acquaintance, this drew her attention to my face, which she was surveying with visible marks of surprize, when the cub her brother entered the room, and put an end to our conversation; for the moment he had popped his unlucky phiz into the door, she wispered not a word of the captain

captain before *Jack*, or any body else, and so made a quick transition, from that entertaining subject, to a question about *Pastor fido*, which we had been reading.

I observed all that day at dinner, and at supper, her eyes were constantly employed in surveying me, and now and then saw her bosom heave, and her blushes warm her countenance, when by chance her eyes have meet mine; we had no opportunity of being alone for the remainder of that day, nor till the following afternoon, when I waited upon her, to discharge the duties of my place, I found her pensive, and a confusion in her looks and words, which alarmed me; she attempted to enter upon the lesson of the day, but I found she had no mind to learn *Italian* that afternoon, her mind was in search of some other kind of knowledge, than meer words; at last throwing aside the book, she told me she was not in a humour at present to pore upon books, that she found herself out of order, and would go take a walk in the garden, in hopes the air would do her good, I proffered my service to accompany her, which she accepted without hesitation; we took two or three turns round the walks, which are very neat, discoursing of many and incoherent subjects, at last we fell again upon the captain, a topic I found she handled with greater composure, than any other; she pretended to be weary, and entered into an arbour covered with woodbines, and jessamines, which was separated from the view of the house, by a thick grove of trees, we both sat down, and she continued to ask me some questions about *B——nt*, and at last told me that she now observed a great resemblance, between me and that gentleman; your air, added she, your features, and methinks the very tone of your voice, puts me in mind of the captain, and I am surprized I did not observe

observe it before. I hope madam, replied I, that resemblance will not deprive me of any share of your esteem, and that you have not imbibed so much of your father's prejudice against the gentlemen of the military, as to quarrel with their likeness in another profession; by no means, returned the lovely maid, I assure you, doctor, I have no such aversion to the sword, as my papa has, for I think those men who have the courage to protect us, have at least a claim to our good-will, and I found captain *B*——*nt* a gentleman, every way so polite, that I rather esteem you the more that you are related to, and have some resemblance of his person. My heart at these words, beat the granadier's march, and I thought I could never find her in a better disposition, to hear a full discovery; therefore, forming my face into the most amorous look I could assume, and falling upon one knee, I begged her to pardon an imposition, which love had obliged me to put upon her for some time, and added, permit me madam, to lay aside the borrowed name of Doctor *T*——, your brother's tutor, and to receive my doom in my own proper person that of captain *B*——*nt*; see madam to what shifts the irresistible force of your charms has reduced the most amorous of mankind, and guess from thence the agonies I must feel, if your goodness does not pardon my bold presumption, and give me some hopes, that time may render my further services acceptable: my studied compliment was almost exhausted, and I was afraid the nymph would have permitted me to grow to the ground, before she vouchsafed to raise me or my hopes; for her surprize was so great, that she stood motionless with her eyes riveted to my face, without being capable for some moments, to utter a syllable. At last, however, to my great joy and relief, she opened her charming lips,

lips, and without assuming a frown or any coquetish airs, desired me to rise from that posture, and hoped I would forgive her any indecency, the ignorance of my real character had led her to, in her behaviour towards me, since I came into the family. You have heard me sir, express my sentiments pretty freely of you, when I thought you many miles distant from me, and from thence you have no doubt, made some conjectures, of what perhaps I would conceal, but as I believe you a man of honour, and that your designs are consistent with that character, I shall not repay the trouble you have been at, on my account, by dissimulation, but own to you if you can find a way to reconcile my duty to the inclination of my heart, your pain on my account shall be small, and of short duration.

Ravished with the transporting sound, and generous confession, I snatch'd the lovely charmer to my bosom, and imprinted my acknowledgments of the mighty favour, in a thousand glowing kisses on her balmy lips; she returned the fond embrace with equal and unfeigned ardour, and our mutual extacy was so great, we both sunk backward on the banks of the harbour, and lay dissolv'd in amorous blifs, mingling souls at each embrace: the critical minute was come, honour, shame and virtue nodded on the watch, and left the precious treasure unguarded; I seized the luxurious moment, and bathed uncontroll'd in luscious delight; the yeilding nymph lay for some moments entranced in convulsive pleasure, and died away with exquisite transport. But the wanton moment pass'd, and the heated blood returned to its wonted measures, you may guess the storm that followed, sighs, tears, and mournful complainings, with the direful sounds of ruin, shame and dishonour, were hollowed in my ears,

ears, and gave an alloy to my pass'd joy, but they were so sublime, that without this little ruffle, mortal faculties could not have supported the extacy.

However, I permitted the nymph to spend the first moment of her passion without interruption, and to murmur out the first agonies of reflection; before I attempted to answer one word, and then pressed the lovely railer to my panting bosom, and melted her to fresh extacy, repeated the pleasing thrilling pain, and by that and the help of a few oaths, intermixed with broken accents of honour, virtue, and marriage, restored her soul to its wonted calm, and obliged her to confess she had experienced joys, worth all the risque she run.

We had now been retired into this dear delicious arbour, for near two hours, and it was time to think of returning to the house, for fear of giving suspicion to the family, but first we settled measures for our future correspondence, and continuing those warm joys, that were now become essential to our mutual happiness. The kind, the soft, the lovely yielding *Belinda* promised to admit me every night to her chamber, after the family was gone to rest, both our apartments being on the same floor, and was that night as good as her word; I stole to my charmer in the dark, and revelled every night for near a month, in rapturous and uncloying bliss. But mark how transitory all human felicity is, in about three or four weeks after my first happiness, with the lovely wanton, the honest squire, her father, returned from *York* city, and told us at dinner, that he had seen doctor *R—*, the worthy clergyman who recommended me, and that he purposed to dine with them as next sunday, on his return from *Thirsk*, where he had gone that day. On mention of his name, I felt a shock more terrible than thunder, and I saw my lovely charmer grow as pale

as ashes, for she knew as well as I, that one visit of that gentleman would unravel the whole mystery of our intrigue, and expose me to the resentment of both the father and the abused doctor, who no doubt would resent the affront, as an unpardonable indignity to the sacred cloth. We were both uneasy till dinner was over, that we might get together, to consult upon means to avert the impending storm, that threatened both our peace, our love and reputation. At last the old gentleman was pleased to go out to look after his farming, and left his disconsolate daughter and me alone.

I'm not good, gentlemen, at describing a tragic scene; you may guess, as our situation was very critical, that there was abundance of wailing, wringing of hands, and soft and tender melancholly complainings on both sides. But it was at last resolved in a council of love, where all the wanton deities assisted, that I should next day, pretend some little business some miles off, and that I should march off the premises, till the doctor had paid his visit, and then return to my vocation of loving and teaching; we employed the remainder of the time between that and our parting, in laying up a sufficient stock of love provisions, to serve both of us for the ensuing lent, which necessity, and not religion, obliged us to keep; and next day at breakfast, I acquainted my patron that a gentleman from *London*, with whom I had some business was arrived at *York*, and had desired my company, I begged his permission to be absent till Sunday, when I would, if nothing extraordinary happened, certainly return, in order to have the pleasure of seeing doctor *B*——, to thank him for the happiness his recommendation had procured me. The good squire made no scruple to believe me, and offer-

ed me his servant and two of his best horses ; but I excused myself that compliment, and after breakfast took a mournful farewell of my dear *Belinda*, and set out on foot for *York*, from whence I took post horse for *London*, making all the dispatch possible, for fear of the d—d doctor, whose presence would have terrified me more than a thousand *Frenchmen*, or a whole army of pandours and croats.

When I got to this dear place of pleasure and liberty, I began to reflect what a ridiculous figure I made in my late expedition, and what a risque I had run of being very severely used, had I been discovered in that dishabille. A decent drubbing, or being run thro' the body by a clumsy country squire, who would have made no scruple of taking the advantage of my wearing no sword, were the least of the dangers I saw I had escaped ; for its more than probable, had the *Yorkshire* man found me mauroding in his quarters, he would have found means to have clapt me into that worst of pounds, matrimony, and furnished me whether I would or not, with a superintendant for my knapsack. I blessed god most devoutly that I had escaped the mighty snare, and in gratitude for my signal deliverance, I promised solemnly never more to throw myself into the way of a *Yorkshire* temptation, and to forget as soon as possible the kind believing *Belinda*, who fancied that so soon as the doctor had decamped to one of his pluralities, her enamoured swain would return again ; but I begged her pardon and fairly shipt myself off for my command in *Flanders*, where I did penance for my country sins, in starving camps and dirty ditches, and never heard of my old charmer, till about ten days ago I chanced to be passing thro' a street near *Bloomsbury*,

bury, and recollected that I had an old agent that lived thereabouts, a good obliging sort of woman, who was my purveyor of maiden-heads. I stepped into mother *N—m's*, who received me very obligingly, and told me in her old phrase, that she was glad I was come, for she had such a piece of goods in the house, as would make my mouth water to look at her. She's young, handsome, beautiful as an angel, as witty as a poet on the third night of his play, and sings like a syren; ah, you young rogue, if you come down handsomely you shall have her. The old beldam's description fired me, tho' I knew she would have said as much, for one newly taken out of the lock; yet I was in full spirits, and promised her any price if I liked the goods, and so was conducted to the presence of the so much commended nymph.

At first sight, I was charmed with her modest air and delicate shape, which was what first caught my eye; but how was I surprized, when on looking in her face, I discovered my dear *Yorkshire* mistress, *Belinda*. On my entrance she gazed as if she had seen a vision, but when my voice confirmed my identity, she shrieked out and sunk dead into my arms; I was never so much shocked in all my life-time; her fit lasted so long, notwithstanding all possible means used to recover her, that I began to despair of her recovery, which gave my conscience some ugly twinges; for I concluded, I think with some reason, that I had been the cause of her present misery, and for some minutes I fancied myself a very arrant rascal, and thought hanging too good for me: But at last the lovely mourner opened her eyes, and faintly murmured, ah, captain, you have undone me; but since I have you once more in my arms I forgive you, if you

can pity the wretchedness you have brought upon me. I comforted her with a kiss, and desired mother *N——m* to leave the room to ourselves; she obeyed, and I soon pacified my afflicted fair, and restored her spirits by a hair of the dog that bit her. She began to be pure and hearty, and I to think less severely of my worthy self, than I had done some minutes before. She told me all that had happened to her since I left her, the particulars of which I wave, as my narrative is already swelled to the bulk of a modern romance, and shall only observe to you, what perhaps you may guess, that a young witness sprung up to unravel the mystery of our intrigue, that her father and friends abandon'd her, and that at last she was decoyed into the service of my female broker. I was scarce satiated with the possession of this lovely girl, when the doctor so unseasonably obliged me to decamp, and she told me her tale with such moving accents, that my former flame rekindled, and gave me fresh pleasure, that I spent eight days with her, before I could think of leaving her. I took her out of the hands she was in, and placed her in decent lodgings, where I intend to keep her as long as she proves true to me, which I really believe will be as long as I live.

Here dear *George*, captain *B——nt* ended his account of this intrigue, on which according to articles, I am not to make any remarks myself, but I believe a great many useful suggestions may occur to you, on reading the pains your friend took to make a virtuous woman truly wretched. He was successful in this, and for ought I know, before his vigour is spent, may supply half a dozen instances more, that no time nor expence is thought too much that is spent in that kind of mischief; and that the chief pleasure these men take in intrigues,

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is in the thought that they have conquered stubborn virtue, and made innocence miserable. How much like a fiend is such a disposition! but I must not moralize. I am,

Dear George,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Henry Rakewell.

LETTER IV.

Containing the history of Miss P—y R—ch.

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield, Esq.

Dear George,

THE heroine of this day's entertainment was born in *Ireland*, her father was a gentleman of a very reputable catholic family in that kingdom, who was intended for the bar, but his religion obliged him to chamber practice only, where he had a very good reputation. He married a lady of the same persuasion, allied to some of the best families in that part of the world, by whom he had several daughters, who have all turned out unhappy, tho' the example of their mother, and a generous education gave their friends very different hopes.

Poll R—ch, the subject of the following sheets was the second daughter, and the darling of her parents, who sent her, at the age of ten years of age, to a monastery in *France*, where she remained for five or six years, and returned a truly accomplished young lady. She was far from being a beauty; her face is merely tolerable, but her shape is genteel

teel, and she is mistress of more wit, than a wise man would chuse to be the portion of his wife. She was scarce a year at home when her mother died, and soon after her father married the daughter of C———e * * * * who proved a very indulgent step-mother to miss R——ch, and her other sisters. The councellor had not much fortune to give his daughters, but that did not hinder several propositions of marriage being made to *Poll*, who had something in her manner so engaging, in spite of a bad face, that several gentlemen of her own religion of moderate fortunes, and good characters courted her for a wife. She received their addressees like all coquets, but found in herself no disposition to reward their honest flame, and could not for some time think of quitting the pleasure of being followed by a train of beaux, and her father was too solicitous about her peace in the grand affair of life, to let his authority interpose in the behalf of any of her suitors, tho' he frequently advised her, if possible she could, to settle her affections while the bloom of youth lasted, and before any attractions the young men thought her possessed of, began to lose their force, by being too often seen. However, she continued in a state of insensibility for a year or two longer, when a young gentleman bred to the law, and who had no fortune, but a small salary arising from a small clerkship, in one of the offices, scrap'd an acquaintance with her. At first he passed for some months unobserved by the father, among the crowd of young gentlemen who used his house, on his daughter's account, and had hitherto made no particular declaration even to miss *Polly* herself; but at last he gained insensibly upon her esteem, and was at last discovered to be a lover by the jealous eyes of his rivals, who soon made the councellor acquainted with their fears. As the father

ther had little or nothing to give with her, and that he knew several of her sweethearts were willing to take her without a groat, and were able to support her in a decent affluence, he was alarmed that a young man, of but a mean family, and an income scarce sufficient to keep himself in pocket-money, should form any pretensions to her. Therefore he first sounded his daughter's inclination, to find if he had made any impression on her, and on her dissembling an entire indifference, he forbid the young clerk his house, and cautioned his daughter from holding any correspondence with him.

She complied seemingly, without any reluctance, and the father and the rest of the competitors for miss's affections, were pleased to see their fears from that quarter dissipated. But they were all deceived, for before the discovery, the young lawyer had made such a party in *Polly's* breast, that he laughed at all their precaution, and in spite of the ruin he saw so unequal a match would involve them both in, he pursued his advantage, and by private meetings compleated his conquest of the unwary fair. They continued their correspondence for several months, in which time he made several attempts to catch her virtue napping, but she had resolution enough to withstand his attacks, till he brought that common engine, matrimony, to play upon her constancy; that she could not withstand, and was prevailed on to enter into a private marriage, which was performed as her swain informed her, by a romish priest. The pretended knot once tied, the unhappy *Polly* yielded without reserve, to the amorous transport of her supposed husband, flattering herself, that she had no other sin to upbraid herself with, in her present behaviour, but of bestowing herself according to her own inclinations, against the consent of an indulgent father,

from

from whose knowledge she intended to keep her happiness a secret as long as possible.

Several months passed without any alteration, except what surprized her father, that of discarding all her lovers, and from a life of gaiety and pleasure, becoming in a manner a recluse, seldom stirring abroad, but when she went to the rendezvous of her supposed husband.

The father and every body else who knew her, were surprized to see the gay, the witty *Poll R—ch* quit at once the pleasure of the town, and condemn herself to the austerities of a nunnery. They puzzled themselves for a long time to find the cause, but in vain, till one of her discarded lovers, one who flattered himself with being most in her good graces, and consequently the more piqued at his disgrace, chanced, by meer accident, to see her and the young lawyer come out of a little blind ally, near *St. George's Church*, about nine o'clock at night. He permitted them to pass him, without taking any notice that he saw them, and followed them at some distance, till they parted at her father's door, after, taking such a farewell of one another, as convinced the jealous lover, that the young clerk was the happy man, for whom he had been discarded. In the rage, which the warmth of their mutual embrace at parting, had put him in, he was almost tempted to take bloody vengeance on the poor lawyer, by running him instantly thro' the body, but the laws of honour recurring to his memory, he checked his passion, and turned down another street that he might avoid meeting him, and that he might have time to consult what was proper to be done on such an emergency. His first thoughts suggested to him, to inform the young lady's father, but he considered as he had seen them but once together, a father partial to his child, and tender of her reputation,

would

would not on such slender proof, entertain any sentiments to her disadvantage, and that he run the risque of disobliging the councellor, and ruining himself with the daughter pass'd redemption. After some time of calm reflection, he resolved to watch them both so close, as to have such evidence, as would at once convince the father of his daughter's folly, and justify himself in the measures he determined to pursue with his hated rival, the young lawyer.

For this purpose, he got intelligence, by means of the servant in councellor R——'s family, of the usual hours of miss's going abroad, and at that time planted himself near the alley he had first seen them come out off, and to his unspeakable vexation, saw the young clerk enter a house of very bad repute, and in a few minutes was followed by the unhappy miss R——*ch*, he staid at his watch till he saw them come out, which might be in about two hours after they went in, and then went into the house, where he was very well known, and by seemingly undesign'd questions, was acquainted by the owner of that wicked habitation, that Mr. *such-a-one* and the famous Miss R——*ch* met there almost every night, went to bed for an hour or two, and then returned, and the beldam said, she believed they were or would shortly be married, but whether they were or not, it was none of her affair, since she was handsomely paid for the use of her bed. The enraged rival saw all his hopes dashed, and his mistress undone past retrieve, and now breath'd nothing but revenge against both his mistress and her worthless gallant.

Next morning he went to her father, and desired to speak with him in private, and gave the unhappy father but too circumstantial a detail of his daughter's misfortune. But he doated on her so much, and had such an over-wheening opinion of her

virtue, that tho' the young gentleman had mentioned so many particulars of the affair, as left him no room for any rational doubt, he would not yield a full belief, till he was convinced by his own eyes. The young spark, who had been thus officious in giving the information, was a little nettled to have his veracity called in question, and judging, that now he was embarked, it was of consequence to him to make good his charge, obliged the incredulous father to go out with him, without speaking to his daughter or any of the family, least by any word or look of his, he might give a suspicion, that any thing more than ordinary was transacting, and kept him out all day, till the usual hour of the lovers rendezvous.

They had not been long at their station, when the unhappy pair made their appearance and entered the house as usual. They gave them time to breathe a little, before they attempted to disturb them, and then made an attack upon the garrison. The old bawd no sooner saw the councillor, whom she knew very well, than she scream'd out that she was undone, fell down on her knees, and cried out as loud as she could bawl, 'councillor *R—ch* forgive me.' The amorous couple were half undress'd in a room up one pair of stairs, when they heard the dreadful sound, more terrible at least to the lady than her last knell. The affairs of love were immediately suspended, and the young lawyer, to save his bacon, jumped half naked out of the window, made sure of his own escape, and left the nymph to meet the storm, and calm it as she could.

The unhappy wife would certainly have followed him, tho' at the hazard of her neck, had not her father that instant rushed into the room, and her quondam lover seized her just as she was going to give a spring out of the window. The unhappy father, tho' apprized of what he was to expect, yet
stood

stood as one planet-struck, unable to utter one word, but, ah, my undone child. The discarded lover had more of the command of his tongue, tho' much moved by the agony he saw the honest father in, said, I am sorry, madam, to find you in this cursed place, and in such wretched company as has just now left you; be pleased to dress you madam, that we may get as soon as possible out of a place so unsuitable to your character. *Polly*, at first, was struck with the presence and visible concern of a truly indulgent parent, whom she knew she had greatly offended, and found in her soul every disposition to express to him the most sincere penitence, but her sentiments, with regard to the gentleman who spoke to her, were quite different; at first sight of him, she concluded that it had been his officious meddling, that had made the unhappy discovery, therefore what he offered, only served to enrage her spirit, and to take off that awful tenderness and compunction she felt on the sight of her father. Peace screech-owl, cried she, in a tone highly exasperated, its to your cursed officiousness I owe this interruption; but what have you gained by this mighty bustle, but to know a secret, which every body must have known at last, that I am married to Mr. ———; where then is this mighty scandal, or hurt to my reputation, that I am found in this house with my lawful husband.—Your husband, replied the disappointed lover with a sneer, is very tender of his wife's reputation to bring her to a brothel, amongst the vilest prostitutes in *Dublin*. If these are the first fruits of matrimony, I can scarce wish your ladyship much joy.—Curse on the unmannerly wretch, to offend my ears with such unhallowed sounds, as brothel and prostitute; thou lyeest wretch, I believe every woman in the house to be as chaste as the mother

that bore thee. But if my husband had been here, you durst not, you poor unmannerly thing, thus basely insult a woman, who has too much to suffer from the frowns of a justly offended parent. Then turning to her father and kneeling, its of you I ought to ask forgiveness, for thus disposing of myself without your consent ; but, sir, permit my husband only to try to merit your esteem, I'm sure he must gain it, and make up in duty and submission to you, and tenderness for me, what he wants of an estate to make him equal to such a wretch as he that stands there. Alas, *Polly*, said the compassionate parent, taking her up from her knees, would to god marriage were the worst of your misfortunes, but I'm afraid he has deceived you in that, for sure no man in his wits, would bring his wife to such a hellish place as this is ; for I assure you child, every word which Mr. ——— has told you is literally true, and you have used him ill, to return him such language for the regard he has expressed for your reputation.

The unhappy *Polly* was thunderstruck at the news, for the husband had made her believe that the house they were in, was a very reputable honest house ; and now some doubts arose in her mind, which filled her with the most racking anguish, which she endeavoured to smother before the gentleman present, before whom her pride would not permit her to express her fears, nor the fullness of the sorrow that oppressed her. But her being unable to support the sudden shock of so many jarring passions, she sunk speechless upon the bed. The father was alarmed at the condition she was in, and called up the old beldam of the house to assist in bringing her to herself, and as soon as she was somewhat recovered, had her put into a coach, half dressed as she was, and carried home to her apartment. It

It was to no purpose for the councillor to chide his unhappy daughter ; he plainly foresaw, that she would be but too severely punished for her folly, his only interest was to make the best of a bad bargain, and make sure of a marriage ; that being the only method to save his family from public scandal. It was too late to make any enquiry about the husband that night, but early next morning the councillor sent for the gentleman, in whose office he was clerk, and acquainted him with the affair, and desired him to sift the young lawyer if, or not, he was inclinable to own the marriage, for he had, by this time, learned from his daughter, that she was married privately by a *Romish* priest, or one who assumed that character, but neither knew his name, place of abode, or any thing of the witnesses, or had any certificate ; so that he saw the marriage depended wholly upon the acknowledgment of the young clerk.

The gentleman spoke to him, and asked him if he was married ; to which he answered, that that was not a fair question, and what he would not resolve, till he knew what disposition the lady's father was in to make provision for his daughter. The gentleman argued the baseness of betraying a young lady in the manner he had done, and putting her upon proving a fact which he knew to be true, and of which she certainly could bring sufficient evidence. I'll take my hazard of whatever evidence she can bring ; and now I assure you, unless the councillor comes down handsomely, he may keep his daughter, and marry her to the first fool he meets ; for though I like a wit, a maidenhead and a fine woman, yet, without some ready money I'm determin'd not to take upon me the expence of a wife and family. The gentleman was highly incensed to hear him talk with so much levity of the daughter

daughter of his friend, and endeavoured by threats to bring him to a sense of his duty ; but all would not do, the result of a negociation which lasted for a fortnight, amounted only to this, that in case the father would immediately advance 1000 *l.* that he would marry his daughter in the face of the sun, but otherways would have nothing to do with her ; but this was a sum impossible for the father to raise, and more than what he was worth in the world, therefore could not comply ; but by the assistance of his friends and the utmost stretch of his credit, he raised 500 *l.* and made a proffer of it to the mercenary husband, which was rejected with disdain, and all treaty broke off.

The unhappy wife and no wife bore up under the agonies of this suspense, and even with the total breach of the treaty, with more temper than could be expected ; but she was further deceived by the husband, for he, by an emissary whom they had imployed as a private confidant, made her believe that all the rout was only grimace, to make her father come down ; but that in all events he would never forsake her. She was so far infatuated by her affection to him that she believed him, and though her father sickened and died with the vexation of the affront put upon his family, yet she seemed easy, and flattered herself that her swain would prove true, and contrived to give him private meetings as often as she could, but with more caution than she had done at the beginning.

They went on in this manner for six or seven months after the discovery, till her grown belly obliged her to keep the house, and prepare for her delivery. This event put her friends once more upon trying their influence with the young lawyer, but he was now more averse than before, and having got a new mistress, whom he fancied better,

ter, he told them in plain *English*, he never was nor never would be married, or have any thing to say to *Polly R—cb*. He was even so base, as to deliver this message to the mutual confidant, tho' he must have known that such a declaration would have cost her her life, which perhaps the wretch would be glad to shorten ; but she was kept ignorant of the matter till she was delivered and out of danger, when she was perfectly convinced that she had no reason to have any dependance on the villain that betrayed her. She hitherto had lived in hope, and bore the taunts and reproaches of her friends pretty patiently, as she fancied she would have the greatest cause to exult when her rogue proved honest and did her justice ; but having now despaired of that event, her spirits sunk under the load, and she could no longer bear to see herself the jest of all companies for her credulity ; even the pity which the more compassionate express'd for her, was irksome to her soul ; her pride could not stomach being in that situation, without reputation, or even the necessaries of life, but what depended on the generosity of her friends ; for at her father's death, there were not effects sufficient to pay his debts ; so therefore resolved to take herself from the sight of those objects that served to renew her melancholy, she set out for *London*, in hopes to be able to support herself by her needle, that last recourse of ruined virgins, or get into some reputable service, her education being such as qualified her for the highest station in any family ; but when she came, either her application to her needle was not so much as it should be, or she had not the encouragement she expected, but it proved insufficient for her support, and her religion was an unsurmountable bar to her getting into any genteel family, which was an objection did not occur to
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her when she left *Ireland*. However, by the generosity of some of her country people, she lived pretty decently for a year or two, and recovered her former spirits, and quite forgot the misery and affliction she had suffered. Her wit and humour recommended her to a good deal of company, but that took her off of her necessary application to procure a subsistence, and at last drove her to such straits, that she yielded to the first temptation that gave her hopes of relief, and being once embarked, continued in it without any sense of shame. She has been in keeping by two or three persons, and is now with an old gentleman, whose lady died with grief of the usage she met with on *Polly's* account; but such accidents as these gives her no remorse; she goes on in the same thoughtless way like the rest of her trade, spending all her income in wild extravagance, without the remotest regard to future accidents. I know she has a plot upon wheedling the old doating squire into a settlement for life, if not a marriage, but I am in hopes, for the safety of his family, that she may succeed in neither. I am,

Dear George,

Your most humble servant,

Henry Rakewell.

LETTER

L E T T E R V.

*Containing the secret history of Mrs. S——d, alias
Mrs. L——.*

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield, Esq;

Dear George,

THE heroine of this day's entertainment is a cockney; she was born within the sound of Bow-bell. Her father was a reputable silversmith in the city, and her mother the daughter of a wealthy tradesman in the same parish; but she died before *Nancy* came of age, or was capable of giving any proofs, that could be depended on, of the levity of her temper. Her father soon married again, but took care to fix upon a woman who proved a very indulgent step-mother to his favourite and only daughter by the first venture; so that whatever has been the girl's fate, she has not the too common excuse to plead for her folly, that she was driven to it by the ill usage of her step-mother; for she was very tenderly brought up, had what they call a genteel city education, and had no reason to make any distinction between her step-mother, and she that bore her.

Nancy grew up a smart pretty girl; she is but a little woman, has no very good features, but an excellent complexion, and a delicate hand and arm. I cannot say she was over and above oppressed with wit; however, as her father was in very good credit, had a brisk trade, and lived much in the esteem of his neighbours, several young tradesmen made amorous overtures to miss; but none came that perfectly pleased her fancy, at least such as made any faint impressions on her heart happened not to meet

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with the father's approbation, who was determined to wed her, if possible, to a sober industrious mechanic, regarding rather the man's morals and principles than wealth, esteeming industry, honesty, and a handful of trade, better than money to set out in the world with; he observed that young men, who set out on the strength of a large stock, generally fell into an expensive way of living, and soon out run the constable; whereas, those who set out with little, lived upon the reserve, and gained by degrees. He had such a young man in his eye, and of his own profession, just out of his time, and whom he designed to observe narrowly for a year or two, to see if his behaviour would be equal to what he expected, from his disposition during his apprenticeship. But his daughter *Nancy* was not disposed to wait the event of so tedious a trial, she was at an age when the blood begins to teach them thoughts, they were before a stranger to; and to wish for something, they know not what; when a young *Scotchman*, a captain of a ship, chanced to get into her acquaintance. The young man was sober and industrious, and had saved, besides a share of a ship, four or five hundred pounds, and was in good credit and esteem with his employers; but he knew he was not a sufficient match, in the eye of the father, for miss *Nancy*; but as he liked the girl, and hoped by his behaviour, some time or other to merit his esteem, he made his addresses in private to his young mistress, and the honest tar pressed his point so gallantly, that he soon gained her affection, at least as much of it, as it was possible for a giddy thoughtless girl to give, and was privately married.

The father, on the discovery, was highly chagrined, that his daughter's forwardness had spoiled all his wise schemes, yet as he truly loved his child,
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and had no objection to the husband's character, but that he was not so rich as he could wish, he was soon so far reconciled, as to countenance the young couple, but resolved to keep his purse-strings close, till he observed whether the captain improved the little stock of his own, determining to assist him, if he found him industrious, or unfortunate, without any fault of his own. The son-in-law was far from grumbling at these conditions, he asked no better, and treated his young wife with great tenderness, and provided for her in every thing decently, but perfectly suitable to his then circumstances. They lived for a year or two very happy, till the breaking out of the war with *Spain*, captain *S—d* was among the first, who took out a letter of mark, to cruize upon the enemies of his country; he had some very considerable merchants joined with him, procured a stout ship, and some choice hands, and set out from *Gravesend*, in great expectation of making a very happy and successful voyage. Having left all his effects to the value of three or four hundred pounds, in the management of his wife, with his will and powers, and a genteel furnished house in *Rotherhithe*, with the burthen only of one child, of which she had been delivered but a few months, before he set out on this expedition.

He and she parted with great marks of mutual tenderness, and one would have imagined by the manner she lamented this separation, that nothing could corrupt her faith; but as nothing violent is permanent, her sorrow soon grew less turbulent, and at last subsided into a perfect calm; and in a few months she scarcely remembered that she had a husband, but gallanted it about, in a very scandalous manner. Her father checked her imprudence, but it had no other effect, than obliging her to absent

herself from his company, and to avoid as much as possible, being either teased with his advice or person. The old man having done all in his power, by persuasions, by word-of-mouth, letters, and threats to acquaint her husband, at last gave her up, and left her to the freedom of her own will.

Her follies, hitherto, were rather extravagancies and indecencies, than actual crimes, but she did not stand long in that situation; for having got some new acquaintance, with a custom-house officer's wife, she was by her, made acquainted with her husband, and was one day inveigled on board a ship, at *Gravesend*, where he was on duty. She carried along with her, on this expedition, a sailor's wife of a very profligate character, and was received by the custom-house officer very kindly, and entertained very handsomely; for reasons easily to be guessed at, he had the command of the cabin, and every thing in the ship, as much as if he had been owner.

Tho' this publican had a wife of his own, yet she was not quite so young as Mrs. S——d, so he fancied her not altogether so handsome, and having observed nothing strickly reserved in madam's behaviour, he flattered himself from the first sight of her, that he might be made welcome to rummage her a little, for run goods, and thought this a good opportunity to try her metal, and his own success for this purpose, he plied her and her companion pretty briskly with arrack punch, and having prevailed on the mate of the ship, to take the companion off his hands, he and Mrs. S——d were left alone in the great cabin, where he made an entry of all her cargo, without much struggle, and gained so far upon her prudence, that he prevailed on her to lie with him on board, all that and the next night. Its easy to judge, that when a woman has once condescended to prostitute herself on board a ship, in so
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public a manner, where every soul on board must know it, could have no very strong notions of modesty, and very little remains left of regard to reputation. Accordingly, she and the officer corresponded together for some months, till his wife became acquainted with it, and caught them on board a ship at *Woolwich*, in bed together. The wife had represented her case to the owners of the ship, who happened not to be in submission to the custom-house officer, therefore private orders were given to the captain of the ship, to assist the injured wife, in her revenge; she having the proper intelligence, came on board one morning very early, and being shewed where her rogue lay with his doxey, she ran to them, and a furious battle ensued, where bloody noses, scratch'd faces, and torn caps were distributed in abundance; but the husband and madam, proving in the end too many for the wife at handy cuffs, she call'd out for the assistance of the ship's crew, and begged them to assist her, in being revenged of a b—h that had seduced her husband. The tars happened not to be very fond of Mrs. S———d, and besides having their private instructions to assist the wife, were easily prevailed on to help her. They pulled poor madam out of the cabin, and naked as she was, put a rope about her middle, and ducked her two or three times over head and ears, over the ship's gunnel, and when almost drown'd and numb'd with cold, (for it was frosty weather,) they flung her cloaths loose about her, and sent her ashoar to the next public house to warm herself.

This cured her of going any more a ship-board, but she soon met with a new paramour, an old disbanded captain, who had no other visible income to support him but what he earn'd from the women. With him Mrs. S———d took up, and lived

lived with him while any thing she had lasted, which indeed was not long, as they were both utter enemies to any thing that had the face of oeconomy. Her husband's ready money being gone, and a report being current of his death, she put herself in weeds, sold off her household furniture, plate, &c. and went with her cull to an obscure corner of the town, where they spent the little remainder of S———d's effects. When that was done, her captain left her, without a rag to her back, or a morsel to put in her head; yet she was not cast down, a gentleman, with whom she had a very slender acquaintance, took a fancy to her child, took that off her hands, and left her only her own person to take care off, of which she intended to make the most; and hitherto has been so lucky, as to meet with some fool or other, who keeps her for a month or two, and then discards her for her viciousness. She seems upon her last keeping, and is in a fair way of turning out into the street, and so compleat the common round of her profession. I am,

Dear George,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

Henry Rakewell.

L E T T E R VI.

Containing the secret history of Mrs. W———m.

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield, Esq;

Dear George,

I was t'other day dining with a colonel of the guards, of your acquaintance, who is of the class of kind keepers, from whom I had the following history of his madam, which I have all the reason in the world to believe very impartial.

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The lady goes by the borrowed name of *W—*, which she has made free with, from one of her former benefactors, but her maiden name is *Nancy A——n*, she is a *Londoner* by birth, and daughter to a very wealthy haberdasher in this city, but her father being seized with the epidemical disease of the nation, in the year nineteen and twenty, reduced himself, by following the bubbles of the times, to the lowest misery. And to add to his misfortune with his wealth, credit and reputation, both he and his wife fell into a lingering fit of illness, which disabled them from doing any thing to recover their misfortunes, or to procure the daily necessities of life.

Their daughter *Nancy*, their only child, then a blooming young girl of eighteen, had, during their prosperity, several suitors, who all abandoned her on the fatal change in her father's circumstances. She remained with her father and mother, while she could be of any use to them, and while the little they had left was worth the dividing, and then went to service to an old lady of quality, who made her several handsome presents, with which she assisted her indigent parents. In about a twelvemonth after, an old maiden aunt of her's died, and left her independent of her father, a small tenement in *Thames-Street*, which brought in a yearly rent of something more than thirty pounds a year; all which she very generously bestowed on her father, besides what she could from the profits of her service. But the old people growing daily more infirm, the small allowance was not sufficient to support the expence of a sick-bed, and its chargeable attendance; so that she was obliged to take up some money on a mortgage of her little income to supply their immediate wants, and, in a word, when they died, which was
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in a year or two after, found herself near an hundred pounds worse than nothing, and all her substance gone. However, she was far from repining, thinking she had done nothing but her duty; her filial tenderness, for her parents, recommended her more and more to the good graces of her lady, who thought her virtue made a large atonement for her defects in birth, and treated her more as a companion than as a servant, and promised that when she died, she would take care to make up to her what she had lost by her pious care of her distressed parents. But the good old lady was taken suddenly ill, and died without making a will, so that poor *Nancy* had nothing of all the fine promises made her, but the bare wages due as a servant, and her lady's wearing apparel. The lady's estate went to a nephew of her's, a young lawyer in the temple, who kept house with two maiden sisters of his. The young ladies, his sisters, had been acquainted with *Nancy's* character, had conceived a great esteem for her, and recommended to their brother to take her home as his housekeeper.

The young lawyer was easily prevailed on, and *Nancy* entered upon her new charge, and met with as much respect and indulgence from her young mistresses, as she possibly could expect, and was treated by her master, rather with more complaisance than she desired. She was then about twenty or one and twenty, had very regular features, black eyes, jet black hair, and a very good skin for one of that complexion; she had a tolerable shape, and nothing disagreeable about her person, except a little waddle in her gait, proceeding from weakness in her limbs. She had been very well educated, and her stay with her late lady had polished her behaviour in such a manner, that she appeared a very agreeable, accomplished well-bred woman.

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It is easy to guess, that the notion of such a servant in the house with a young rake or a lawyer, was apt to raise in his head some very warm ideas. But the chastity and severity of her character and manners kept him for a long time at his proper distance; he only endeavoured, by an open, frank, and friendly carriage, to gain upon her good will, and lull asleep the guardians of her honour, by making her believe that he had no design upon her. This scheme met with its desired effect; for from his carriage to her she observed, that he either had no thoughts of her, or if he had, they might be wrought up to an honourable proposal. Full of this thought, which her vanity suggested to her, she grew less reserved in his company, and took means to display all the charms she thought herself mistress of, and then began to angle for his heart, while he was only laying a train for her person.

It was some time before the lawyer had the courage to speak to her, and when he did, it was in such ambiguous terms, that it might be construed either into a favour or an affront. She explained it as best suited her vanity, and instead of being more upon her guard, and avoiding to give him an opportunity of coming to an explanation, she thought herself so sure of hooking him into the perpetual noose, that she threw herself in his way, and gave him such advantages, that he gained the main point before he had signed articles of any sort, and when she had committed that false step, she saw 'twas in vain to pretend to be his wife, and so contented herself to live with him as a mistress; in which character she behaved so well, that few people called their marriage in question; and those who did, acknowledged that she deserved every thing in his power to confer upon her.

They lived together for near ten years, and had several children, who went by the father's name; but at the end of this time a young officer, who chanced to be a client of the lawyer's, got so much into her good graces, that she and he were caught together, (a case which belong'd only to the barrister to decide) on which madam was turn'd out of doors; but the lawyer had still so much tenderness for her, that he allow'd her a small annual subsistence, and promised to continue it as long as she behaved with decency; but sense of shame, once lost, and an itch of variety seizing her, she became prodigal of her favours to as many as could purchase them, which lost her her pension, and then she had the plea of necessity for continuing in the same course. She has been in the keeping of several, and in the intervals between an old and a new customer, has been reduced to the utmost necessity, but seems now pretty well settled; for as she is now almost an old woman, she has lost, as it is to be supposed, her youthful tooth. The colonel, her present keeper, is not very young, rather wanting a nurse than a mistress, for which Mrs. *W*—*ms* is very fit, as being a very knowing woman, facetious in her conversation, a good housewife and oeconomist; therefore I conclude she and our friend will hold it out for life without troubling the church. I am,

Dear George,

Your most humble servant,

Henry Rakewell.

LETTER

LETTER VII.

Containing the adventure of Miss Sally B—y.

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield, Esq;

Dear George,

THE old adage, *pastorem nati raro velut esse debati*, or our ill-natur'd *English* proverb, if the devil can't catch geese he'll catch goslings, holds true with respect to miss B—y, the subject of the following pages; for, my dear friend, she is a truly legitimate daughter of the protestant church of *England*, and was begot, if her mother did not play a false step, by as pious a son of the cassock as ever mounted a pulpit. I have heard my old great grandmother say, for she knew him, that he was a powerful preacher, and never suffered his hearers to part from him with dry eyes; he touched their hearts to the quick, and made the most hardened sinner confess his sins with penitential tears. But enough of his honesty, we shall take that upon the report of the old women. However, for all this piety, the good man was frail, and subject to the manifold infirmities of human nature: amongst the rest of his failings, it's said, with great deference to his memory, that he lov'd a sup of the creature, and used frequently to get maudling drunk before he mounted the rostrum, which supplied his pious eyes with moisture to water his little flock. This was a conveniency, but it had its little disadvantages attending it, it exhausted the tythes too fast, and obliged his family to want many conveniencies while he lived, for his income was not very large, and when he died, left them

quite destitute of every means of subsistence but the luke-warm charity of his surviving brethren of the sacred cloth, and other good christians, which proved to be very cold comfort to his disconsolate widow, and four or five small children, of whom miss *Sally* was the eldest. On the parson's decease the widow, who was truly an orderly pains-taking woman, retrench'd her expences as much as possible, and applied to the bishop and some of her own relations, who were people of fashion and substance in that country, for relief, to enable her to subsist and educate her little orphans. For the first year or two, while the remembrance of the good man her husband was fresh in their memory, they did something which helped her to keep soul and body together ; but time cooling their charity, and the children growing up to require rather more than less to provide for them, the poor widow found herself in very deplorable circumstances. *Sally* was her eldest and darling, and the fond mother saw something in her, though then but twelve years of age, which at the same time heightened her tenderness, and gave her many pangs about her future fate. She had fine regular features, a fair complexion, and a delicate shape, with all the marks of a fine woman, with a peculiar liveliness in her disposition, and an uncommon share of sweetness and good-nature in her temper. These were promising and engaging qualities to a mother ; but to a mother of sense, in Mrs. B——y's circumstances, they carried with them the severest anxiety about her future happiness. She considered, that she was far from being in circumstances to bring her up suitable to these natural accomplishments, and that the less education she had, and the lower her circumstances, the more apt they would be to ensnare her to her ruin. This reflection alone made her

her frequently burst out into tears. When she looked upon her and saw the early buds of blooming beauty, she often wished that something might happen that would destroy the gay appearance, and render her a plain homely girl. However, she took all the pains in her power to prevent the effects she dreaded, by giving the girl the most despicable opinion of flattery, especially her face and person, and teaching her to stifle every motion of pride and self-conceit on that score; she represented to her, by slow degrees, and in forms most suitable to her understanding, how little reason a woman had to flatter herself on a fine shape, or a set of regular features, when they were liable to be deprived of them by so many accidents, and that even looking on them when in their bloom, destroyed their efficacy, rendered them familiar, and paul'd those who were most enamour'd of them at first sight. She endeavoured to inculcate into her young mind, that the charms of virtue, prudence, and good sense, would last when these fleeting graces were past, and would bear to be inspected into, and more esteemed the more it was known, and give more real pleasure to the possessor, and more satisfaction to every one connected with her than the charms of the most finished beauty.

Miss Sally was abundantly sagacious for her years, and heard her mother on these subjects with great pleasure, which made Mrs. B——y repeat them the oftner. The good woman meant all her lecture for the good of her darling child, and they had as much effect upon her as could be expected for one of her years, which was only to hear and remember the sage precepts which were preached to her, but it could not be expected that they could have any deep effect upon her judgment; on the contrary, as she heard her mother so often upon the

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the topick of the danger of being conceited with beauty and shape, and hearing her frequently with tears of grief and fondness cry, *ah, Sally! my dear Sally!* that face will one day undo you. It put it early into the girl's head that she was really a beauty, and the precept against vanity and conceit only helped to blow up that passion so natural to young creatures of that sex, and taught her at the same time the art of dissembling her real sentiments. This is one instance how delicate a thing meddling with the passions is, since if attack'd injudiciously, the very means used to correct those that are vicious, may cherish their growth, and render them for ever after untractable; but I believe, my dear *George*, this is too grave a reflection for you, therefore I'll beg your pardon, proceed to the narrative, and follow it no further.

Mrs. *B*——y was now reduced so very low, that she was obliged to live upon the sale of her most valuable moveables, to which she knew there would soon be an end, and consequently was in the utmost agony about her children. She had tried most of her friends, and had wearied them out of the little charity they had, and exhausted every thing of that kind belonging to the clergy. She was in the deepest distress, when a lady in the neighbourhood, lately come to live in that country, and who had been formerly her companion at a boarding-school, stop'd at her little house to pay her a visit.

Mrs. *B*——y was pleased to see her old acquaintance, but a little dash'd that her apparel and every thing about the house exposed so much of her circumstances; but the good lady, by her frankness, soon dissipated all her uneasiness, by acquainting her, that she came not to give her pain by unnecessary reflection on her present circumstances,

but

but to talk with her about the means of making them more easy. Mrs. B—y was overjoy'd to hear the sound of relief, and thank'd God that he had heard her prayers so seasonably, for now she had nothing remaining but what was on her back, one bed, and a few broken chairs, and not a shilling to purchase another meal for herself and children. It's not material to my purpose to be very particular in what regards her, let it suffice that this charitable lady found means to dispose of all her children, where they were taken care of, except *Sally*, who she carried home with her mother to her own house, promising to provide for the one, and that the other should never want while she lived.

This was a prodigious change, and for a year or two and upwards seem'd greatly to the better for *Sally*, for her generous benefactress treated her in the same manner she did her own daughter, who was much about the same age, and took the same pains about her education. But in about a year and a half after her coming to this family her mother died, which was a sensible loss to her, as she was deprived of her advice, and left more to herself and her own management than she had been before; for though the young lady's governess had the same charge of her as she had of the lady's own daughter, yet miss, who began now to have a will of her own, did not stand so much in awe of her as of her mother, and by the indulgence of her too kind benefactress, she assumed airs very unbecoming her dependant circumstances. About this time the lady's eldest son, whom we shall call *Bellamour*, returned from his travels, more tainted with foreign vices and follies than improv'd by seeing the world, he was but just come of age, had a very genteel person, and did not want for natu-

ral parts, but he had been too soon his own master to improve his natural talents. He was naturally amorous, and his notions of morality were but too lax to be a check upon him in his gratifying the passions. He thought it was the necessary qualification of a fine gentleman to make sport of religion and decency, and affected the rake without any one qualification to entitle him to that character, but a mixture of impiety, and a brutal appetite to ruin all the women that came in his way. His mother was doatingly fond of him, and could not, or would not, see his faults, which gave him an opportunity, better than he expected, of ruining the unhappy miss B—y. He had not been above two or three hours in the house, before he fancied himself inflamed with her dawn of beauty. Her youth, her innocence, and a certain simplicity he saw in her countenance, instead of creating in him compassion, tenderness, and sympathy for her circumstances, with which he was made acquainted, only convinced him of the easiness of his conquest, and prompted him to mark her out for his prey. With this view he treated her on all occasions with the highest encomiums on her beauty, which, notwithstanding all her mother's grave lectures, her vanity was arriv'd to such a pitch, that it by degrees gained a party for *Bellamour* in her unexperienced breast.

She was now at an age to have a confused idea of the commerce between the sexes, and to know that she had something about her which men covet'd more than wealth, honour, or reputation, and as her conversation hitherto had been confin'd to her own sex, she fancied *Bellamour* the only man she could make that sacrifice to. She fancied from his continued elogiums on her beauty, and the great complaisance with which he treated her

her, that he was as much in love with her as she found herself inclinable to be with him. He was the only man that came about the house that treated her upon the footing of a woman, which was another bait for her vanity, for as she was tall, and forward of her years, she believed herself as much a woman as her mother, and *Bellamour* treating her on that footing, and not as a giddy girl, made great impressions in his favour.

The decorum he was obliged to use before his mother, kept him from making any close attack for about a week; but by this time he had made an acquaintance with his sister's governess, and under pretence of hearing the young ladies sing and play on the spinnet, spent several hours in their apartment, where he took every opportunity to whisper miss *B——y* how much she had made him her slave. Poor miss, who had the highest opinion of her own beauty and merit, thought every thing was due to it, and easily believed the forged tale, and had not prudence enough to conceal the pleasures which the declaration gave her. *Bellamour*, who was no novice to the works of nature, as far as women are concern'd, soon observ'd that he had fired the unthinking fair, and made no scruple to propose an assignation in the wilderness adjoining the parterre. *Sally*, who feared no guilt, nor dreaded no deceit from the man she loved, complied, and was at the second interview totally undone. As to her, she was too young and too unthinking to dread any thing of the consequences that must attend their correspondence. He had promised to marry her publickly, and, in the mean time, to satisfy any scruples she had to surrender, he had read over the office of matrimony, and made her believe that they were actually man and wife to all intents and purposes, but conjured her

to keep it and their meetings private for some months. However, *Bellamour*, after the first hurry of an ungovernable appetite had abated, and gave him room to reflect on what he had done, on the baseness of betraying one so young, one under the sanction and protection of his mother, and whose youth, innocence, and circumstances, would have prompted him to have taken the severest vengeance on any man who would have done the like, began to be very uneasy about the consequences of a discovery, to his reputation and his mother's resentment, who would be highly incens'd at such a scandalous violation of the sanctuary of her house. He was still so much enamour'd with the youth, and artless simplicity of the ruined fair, that he could not think of parting with her, nor yet of continuing her long in her present situation, where every meeting was attended with the risque of a discovery; therefore he contrived a method to remove her from thence in such manner as the scandal should not light upon him. There was a young man in the neighbourhood, the eldest son of a wealthy farmer, with whom *Bellamour* had been intimate since they were children; on this young farmer he prevails to become a publick suitor to Miss *Sally*. The old lady, his mother, would have been very well pleased with the match if the farmer would have made any settlement upon his son, without a portion no ways suitable to the lady's circumstance to part with; therefore the young farmer was forbid the house: but a day or two after *Sally* was missed, and was neither to be found high nor low, and all concluded she was gone off with young *Roger*; in which conjecture they were confirmed, when the farmer soon was likewise lost, and had been seen lurking about the garden the night miss went off. The farmer was enraged at his

his son, the lady was highly concerned for *Sally's* imprudence, and *Bellamour* was in the greatest passion imaginable, and took horse immediately in pursuit of the run-aways, threatening to be the death of *Roger* for presuming to carry off miss *Sally* without the consent of his mother. He and his servant rode to the several villages round about, but could find no tidings of the lovers; at last he fancied they might be set out for *London*, where he purpos'd to follow them, as they probably would go by the stage-coach, and he might overtake them before they got to their journey's end. His mother would have persuaded him not to go, as thinking it impossible he should overtake them before they got to the city, or find them out when there; but *Bellamour*, to whom their rout was no secret, was not to be persuaded, but took horse, attended only by his valet, who was privy to all his amours, and his pimp-master general. He overtook them at a village about 20 miles off, where they waited by his directions, for *Roger* had only made his courtship with design to make the country believe that he had carried her off, and conducted her out of the house by *Bellamour's* directions, where he was to deliver up his charge to him as the the right owner, and then returned to his father, to whom he pretended he had left the lady at a relation of her's till he had procured his and lady ——— consent to the marriage, without which he would not venture, nor could not prevail on *Sally* to consummate it. Thus taking the whole blame on himself, the squire was not in the least suspected, who proceeded on with his young mistress to *London*, where he settled her in lodgings suitable to a kept mistress.

Sally thought herself the happiest creature alive, and had neither sense nor gratitude enough, to re-

flect on her own dishonour, and the pain she gave her benefactress: she believed herself married, and passed amongst the set of acquaintance *Bellamour* had introduced her to, by the name of Mrs. *Bellamour*. Her seducer stay'd close with her, for three months, and by the tenderness, respect and fondness he shew'd her, made infamy familiar and easy to her, but he being suddenly called away by the death of his mother, and the settlement of his country affairs taking him up a month or two, miss *Sally* in that interim, had time to reflect and grope her way out of the labyrinth of vice and delusion, into which, passion, ignorance and credulity had led her. In conversing one day with the landlady of the house, and one or two of the class of kept madams, for none else were of her acquaintance, she happened to give herself some airs, which piqued the others pride, on which a comparison arose about their several circumstances: *Sally* thought they did not treat her as became the wife of Mr. *Bellamour*; the wife of Mr. *Bellamour*, replies one of them sneeringly, sure madam you don't, in earnest, pretend to be married to that gentleman. *Sally* was startled at the doubt, and in pure simplicity told her company the form of their marriage, at which they all laugh'd immoderately, and rather out of malice than good nature, convinced the unhappy girl that she was now no more, and in all likelihood would never be any thing else, than his whore. This alarmed her pride, as well as her virtue, and gave her the most severe pangs of remorse, and she resolv'd, if possible, to take the severest vengeance of her betrayer. But these were the resolutions of her first passionate moments, which soon gave place to more tender emotions, when *Bellamour* appeared, which was in a day or two after this discovery. She chid him, it is true, for his deceit, charged him with

with breach of the most solemn vows, begg'd of him to marry her publicly and restore her reputation, cried, sigh'd and weep'd, but the cunning *Bellamour* sooth'd all her passion, and charm'd her once more into a guilty calm, and so continued for near a twelvemonth, and I believe would have continued much longer constant to her, if her own folly had not given him too just grounds to throw her off. There was another lady of the same profession, who lodged in the same house, who was kept by an officer of the army, by whose means *Sally* became acquainted with the officer. As *Sally* was by much the youngest and handsomest of the two, tho' not the wittiest, the young officer was soon smitten with her, and made secretly his address to *Sally*, who fancied his person, especially his dress, much more agreeable than *Bellamour's*, and therefore made no scruple of granting the officer some favours which were not his due. They managed their matters so discreetly, that neither of them were discovered for three or four months, but the captain having been dabbling in a hot country, made *Bellamour's* quarters too hot for him. He soon discovered his case, and knew he could have the favour tip'd him no where but from his young mistress, but would not tell her his suspicions, till he could detect the captain, whom he suspected for the mauroder, in such a manner as would entitle him to call him to an account. The captain's own mistress he knew was then at *Greenwich*, and consequently concluded that if he lay from home, *Sally* and he would take that opportunity. He pretended to be going down to *Turnbridge*, for two or three days, and took his leave of *Sally*, but return'd the same night, about twelve or one o'clock, he had a key to the door, and let himself

himself in without much noise, but in coming up stairs, he stumbled and awaked the captain, then in bed with *Sally*, who judging it to be his foot, jumped out of bed, and was running up stairs naked as he was, when *Bellamour* perceiving him by moonlight, just as he open'd the chamber door, run him thro' the body with his sword, and ran immediately down stairs, and lock'd the street door after him. The captain only uttered in his fall, a deep groan, fell flat on his face and expir'd. The noise of his fall, quite rouzed *Sally*, who was before, between sleeping and waking, she huddled on her bed gown as fast as she could, and ran to the door, where she saw by the moonlight, which shone thro' the window of the stair-case, the captain in his gore. She screek'd out, and by her cries, alarmed the house; the landlord, a kind of petty fogging newgate solicitor, and a meer brute in his temper, on seeing the corps, and no body by but she and her maid, who had come there by her cries as well as himself, immediately damned her for a little young hypocritical bitch; have you, says he, murdered the man, and now pretend to mourn over him; but I'll have you before a magistrate, and squeeze a confession out of you. Having locked her and her maid in their own apartments, he went to the watch-house, brought a constable, and had her and her maid secured for that night. The next morning they were carried before a justice of the peace, where the fellow swore, that to his knowledge, the captain lay with her that night, that nobody was in the house but she, her maid, and his wife and maid, for both which he could answer, and that the captain was found dead at her chamber-door, with his blood and body warm when he came up, and therefore concluded that the murder must have been committed by them, with the captain's own sword,

which

which was actually lying on her dressing table. The circumstances were extreamly strong, and the justice was of opinion, that the murder must be committed either by the landlord, or by the prisoners, and therefore committed them all for their further examination. On the second examination, when *Sally* was a little more recovered from her fright, she behav'd with somewhat more boldness, and fairly and candidly confess'd her situation, and delivered the manner of her being debauch'd by *Belamour* in such natural terms, and her folly in being deluded by the captain in such moving accents, that the justice and the captain's friends could not help being touch'd with her narration. She acquainted them, that that unhappy night she was half wak'd by the captain's jumping out of bed and running to the door, and heard him groan and fall, that then she got up in a great flutter of spirits, and thought she heard a foot run hastily down stairs, and open and shut the street-door, that she ran to the chamber-door, when on seeing the corps she scream'd out, and by her cries, brought first her own maid, and then the landlord to see the dismal scene.

The old justice, who was not insensible of the charms of beauty, especially in the moving attitudes of grief and distress, was much inclin'd to believe her innocent; but the landlord insisting that none could come in, without his knowlence, that he had lock'd the door when he went to bed, and found it lock'd after the murder, and that consequently the story of a foot on the stairs, locking and unlocking the doors, must be a fiction; he was obliged to commit her to *Newgate*, on a suspicion of murder.

The story made a great noise, and every body believed according as they were prepossess'd, but the generality rather believed the landlord guilty than

than *Sally* or her maid, and every body was impatient to hear the verdict of the coroner's inquest, which was in about four days after the fact, when one of the neighbours gave evidence, which took off the suspicion from the innocent, and fixed it where it really ought; he deposed that the night of the murder, and about the precise time in which it happened, he chanced to be passing to his own house, saw Mr. *Bellamour*, whom he knew very well, open the street-door and go in, and before his own people had time to open his own door, saw him come out again, lock it, and go off in a great hurry. The landlord owning that he had a key, and used frequently to come in, in that manner, and the circumstance of his being her keeper too, convinced the coroner, that it was very probable he that had committed the murder, and accordingly the jury brought in their verdict, willful murder by *Bellamour*, who by this time had absconded, and so took off all suspicion from the unhappy *Sally*. But the justices did not think proper to discharge her without bail, which she could not obtain, and therefore continued for near six weeks in that nursery of vice, till bills were presented to the grand jury, found against *Bellamour*, but return'd ignoramus against her, where she lost all remains of modesty and delicacy, and when turn'd out, commenced street-walker. She continued in that situation for about two months, and was then taken out of a noted house of pleasure, by a general search warrant, and carried before the same justice, who first examin'd her on the affair of the captain's murder; who immediately knew her, and found himself so much disposed to be-friend her, that he ordered privately some of his own people to bail her, and then took her into keeping. The old man was doatingly fond of her for some time, and provided

provided for her as handsomely as his fortune would admit of. But happening to wait of her one evening pretty late, out of his usual hours of attendance ; the landlady, with whom she had been quarrelling that afternoon, was so malicious as to show him into her bed-chamber, where he found her at very warm devotion with a young clergyman. The justice was highly provoked at them both, but he had not courage to put the priest in any great danger of his life, but muttering some curses against the young jilt, left her to continue her pious exercise with her chaste son of the church. However, from that time he could never be prevailed on, to countenance her in any shape. And as on the withdrawing of his allowance, she was obliged in a short time to betake herself to the street, he had her taken up, and was so just as to commit her to *Bridewell*. Sally had the impudence, when he was giving directions for writing her mittimus, to desire the clerk to insert her crime in it, which she supposed to be for committing fornication with the justice : this being spoken before a whole room full of company, set them all a tittering, and exasperated the worthy magistrate to such a degree, that in spite of all sollicitations, he kept her at milling doll for two months. At last she got out, and followed her old occupation, and chanced one night in her travels thro' *Fleet-street*, to pick up her old acquaintance, farmer *Roger*, who had been so instrumental in trappanning her to *Bellamour*. She knew his voice immediately, tho' he did not know her ; however, they were soon acquainted, and she pleased the countryman so well, that by the help of getting him drunk, she wheedled him into a marriage at the *Fleet*. When *Roger* had slept, and wrought off the fumes of his liquor, he heartily repented his bargain next morning ; but Sally

had learned so much more wit now, than what she had when *Bellamour* fooled her into a belief of marriage, that she had left *Roger* no hole to creep out at, and stuck so closely by him, that he made a virtue of necessity, and carried her down to his farm-house, where he was sole master, his father been lately dead : and I am told that he has had no cause to repent his bargain, since *Sally* has proved a very careful and faithful wife, and a dutiful mother to a fine family of children, which she brings up with as much decorum, as if she had never served her time in the hundreds of *Drury*. I am,

Dear George,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Henry Rakewell.

LETTER VIII.

Containing the adventures of Sally S—k, alias Mrs. B— alias the D—ss of H—

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield, Esq;

Dear George,

TO trace the birth and original of the misfortunes of the once celebrated subject of this letter, I must carry you as far back as *Edinburgh*, for there *Sally S—* was born ; as to her father and mother, its not very material to our purpose, to tell you who they were, its sufficient you know that they were people of some fashion, but

but reduced by an unhappy attachment to the house of *Steuarts* in the year 1715, and died without any means to support their children, who were obliged to be canton'd for their subsistence, on such of their Relations as would bear the charge of their maintainance and education.

It happened to be the unhappy lot of *Sally*, their eldest girl, to be quartered upon an aunt of hers, who kept the most noted tavern in the city, known by the sign of the cross keys. Mrs. T———, for that was the aunt's name, took a great liking to her young kinswoman, who had a very promising face and person, and bestowed liberally on her education. She soon grew up to be taken notice of for her beauty, and many of the young nobility who frequented the house, were laying plots for her maidenhead almost before it was ripe, but her aunt kept her out of the way of all temptation; and kept a very strict eye over her, not, as the sequel shows, out of any very virtuous principles, or any aversion she had to the good old cause, but least the young thing should bring her wares to market in a rainy day, and prevent her from making a beneficial bargain, of so marketable a commodity. However she actually preached chastity and decorum to such purpose to the young girl, that she founded her in principles, which gave her great trouble to destroy, when she found it her interest to read her prayers backward. For when *Sally* was just turned of sixteen, his G—— the late D—— of H———, who lodged frequently at that house, took a great liking to her, and proposed some terms to her aunt, which obliged the good woman to prefer him to other customers, who would have dealt with her for the same goods, and consequently miss had directions to behave civilly to the D———, and contrary to usual custom, was

sent on several errands to his apartment. She complied at first, as far as she thought, or had learned, that the term civility would extend ; but when his grace went beyond her notion of that bounds, she treated him pretty pertly, and refused peremptorily to go near his apartment. This nettled her aunt, who did not think, that the pains she had taken to persuade her to save her maidenhead would make her such a fool, as to withstand an opportunity of parting with it, to the first D—— in *Scotland*, and one, whose person and address was so acceptable to women of much greater rank and experience. She hoped that a star and ribbon would have so dazzled her eyes, that she would have winked at the loss of such a toy, and allowed herself to be wheedled into noble infamy, without her being obliged to interpose her actual authority. But she was mistaken, the D—— could not prevail, and all their stratagems failed of giving him any advantage over her; at last, the virtuous aunt was forced to throw off the hypocritical mask, and to use arguments with her, to submit to her great fate. She represented honour, grandure, and riches, as the consequence of her fall, and to strengthen her resolution, pointed out many right noble examples of the great advantages of illustrious prostitution. But *Sally* retorted the old lectures she had formerly learned her, about honesty virtue, honour, chastity, religion, and all that, which put the wicked agent much to a stand how to behave ; but at last, she was obliged to desist, and pretend that all she had said was only to try her, for *Sally* told her peremptorily, that she would complain to her kinsman, one of the righteous magistrates, who would have made an ugly spot of work of it, had her tampering come to his ears. Therefore they changed their measures, and gave over persecuting

persecuting her any more at her aunt's house; but in about a fortnight after, when *Sally* believed all was forgot, her aunt desired her to go down to the duke's lodgings in the abbey, in order to receive payment of a bill from his G——'s steward.

The poor girl complied without any reluctance, and was rather glad of an opportunity to see the apartments, because she thought the D—— was not in town, as he had not been at their house for a week pass'd. When the steward saw her, he had his orders how to behave, and desired her to follow him into the next room, and he would pay her the money; but how great was her astonishment, when she saw the D—— himself, and that the steward the moment she entered, went out and locked the door after him. An universal tremor seized her, and she was ready to sink upon the floor, and unable to utter a word: when the D—— caught her in his arms, and said and did all that man could do, to bring a woman to herself, and persuade her out of her virtue, at the same time. She stood her ground with great courage, for an hour or two, but growing faint with speaking and struggling, his grace prevailed on her to drink a glass of very strong cordial, which she says intoxicated her, and made her future resistance more languid; in the long run, she submitted and was undone; and from that time, complied willingly how or where he pleased, till she was brought to-bed of a fine boy, which died soon after. It was impossible to keep it any longer a secret, and so miss's character was blasted, and she was denied all modest company, and went by the name of the D—— of H——. Tho' the aunt had made very handsomely by her connivance at, and contrivance of her ruin, yet when the duke grew weary of her, she was the first who upbraided her with her misfortunes, and withdrew her countenance and support, which reduced *Sally*

to the lowest straits for meer substance; at last, necessity drove her to marry a young fellow who was drawer to her aunt, which the foolish woman thought such a disgrace, that she never left off persecuting him till she ruin'd him. She even found out means to have him charg'd with theft, whipt thro' the city, and banished the town. The poor fellow, who was actually innocent, and found guilty only on presumptive evidence and by the force of a party in the T——n C——l, broke his heart and died, and Sally grown now desperate, commenc'd whore; but knowing that her pious aunt would soon find means of transporting her, for the exercise of a trade, which she herself had learned her, removed her quarters to *London*; where she commenced orange-wench at the playhouse, with the other parts of that branch of commerce, and made a pretty good figure for some time; and was taken from thence into keeping by a gentleman belonging to the law, who had known her when mistress to the D——— of H———, but she had not been with him above a year, when she pox'd him, and was set a drift on the *Strand*: where she liv'd a winter or two, and then married a coachman, who had saved two or three hundred pounds at service; but Sally helped the honest man to drive himself, in a little time, out of all he had, and when they were just at the last extremity, she commodiously for him, drunk herself into a dropsy, and kept fairly into another world, leaving him at liberty to provide for himself as he best could. I am,

Dear George,

Your most humble servant,

Henry Rakewell.

LETTER IX.

*Containing the history of the three famous sisters, the
Miss M——g——ts.*

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield, Esq;

Dear George,

I send you by this post, memoirs of three ladies who were w——res, not out of necessity, the most common excuse urged in behalf of Prostitution, but out of a deliberate choice, as the most eligible scheme of happiness; how far their manner of life contributed to their real felicity, I leave you to judge from the sequel. But I would caution you from running away with a notion, that I am going to furnish you with one of the many instances that may be given of the capricious wantonness of the sex, for I assure you, if you advert to the chain of causes, which led these ladies into that vicious turn of mind, you will find, that the course they followed was far from being the result of the principles of the natural woman, and that if they had not been unhappy in some circumstances, absolutely independant on their own wills, they might have been as much an ornament to their sex as their conduct has given scandal to the virtuous fair; but to proceed.

The ladies I am now speaking of, were three sisters, daughters to F——b M——t, in the county of Salop, Esq; a gentleman possessed of a fair estate in that country, and deservedly esteemed by all his neighbours. His lady was of a reputable family in the same neighbourhood, and possessed of every qualification that could render woman amiable,

able, or the marriage state happy. They had but one son, and the three daughters we are now treating of; and while they lived, spared no cost nor pains to improve their natural talents, and to dispose their minds to an early love of virtue. But unhappy for the family, they both died, at a time of life when their children most wanted their countenance, to confirm into a habit those principles, their years only permitted them to understand as a precept. The eldest of the girls was but fifteen years of age, and her brother about two years older, and they were left to the guardianship of an uncle by the mother's side, who had been bred a meer soldier, with as few sentiments of delicacy, as possibly could be the portion of any thing of the human species.

The young ladies were put to a boarding-school, and the young *Horatio*, the brother, was taken from the university, and, under the eye of his pious guardian, made a campaign or two in *Flanders*, where he copied so truly after the old colonel, that their manners and morals were exactly of a piece, cursing, swearing, fighting and whoring were their constant amusements, when out of the field, diversions which they pursued with no kind of delicacy, but brute-like, made war upon every female they met, without regard to age, circumstances, or quality; for it was a part of their creed, that all women loved the sport in their hearts, and were only chaste out of regard to custom and decency, things in which they were resolved to bring about a reformation, in spite of the society for reformation of manners.

The colonel and his ward, with some other profligate sons of *Mars*, erected themselves into a club, which they christened by the name of the society

ciety for propagating fornication, and liberty of conscience in carnal matters, by the rules of which every member was obliged to swear against matrimony, as a holy cheat and a trap upon their liberty, to do all in his power to banish cold chastity to the frigid zone, and to convince every woman, that it was her right as an *English* woman, to use every thing about her, and indulge every appetite with as much freedom as the Men. A great many young rakes of quality were led to join this worthy club, by the novelty of it, perhaps without any settled design of putting their hellish notions in practice; but the colonel and his young ward, *Horatio*, were truly serious, and to convince their fraternity that they would stick at nothing, to promote the good cause, they resolved to use their influence with the Miss *M———s*, to espouse their doctrines, and by their example give countenance to others of less note, to fall in with their schemes.

The young ladies who had each of them three thousand pounds to their fortunes, had just left the boarding school, and went to live at a relations of theirs, of small fortune, and whose circumstances wanted the addition that would be made by their boarding with her. Their brother and guardian visited them there often, and treated them with such freedom of discourse, that the ladies, tho' fond of their brother, and possessed of as much affection to the uncle, as they could express, yet were prodigiously uneasy at the liberty they took in their company, of talking the grossest bawdy, and ridiculing every thing that was virtuous and modest. They endeavoured to argue them out of the rudeness of their behaviour; and the gentlewoman at whose house they lodg'd, did all in her power to convince them, that they could not act a more unnatural part, than to accustom ladies so young, to such ribaldry, that

tended only to take off the natural delicacy of sentiment, so much the ornament and safe-guard of the fair ; but the colonel laugh'd at all their grave romonstrances, and only proceeded to greater indecencies by opposition. The good lady could bear it no longer, she had several women of fashion and virtue, who visited her, whom these ruffians treated with the same rudeness, and therefore forbid the gentlemen her house.

The three young ladies would certainly have been very well pleas'd with the prohibition, had it been delivered with more moderation, but at the time it happen'd, the old colonel had wound her up to such a passion, by some very plain speech, particularly addressed to her, that she called up her footman and two porters, who happened to be in the house at the time, and ordered them to kick the rakes down stairs ; treating them with so little ceremony, and exposing them to the servants, piqued the pride of miss *Betty*, the eldest young lady, who happened to be at that time in the room, and engaged her in her brother and uncle's quarrel, with more warmth than prudence. ' What madam,' says she, in a rage, ' dare you treat my uncle and brother in that manner, and in my presence too. ' They are come to see me, and while I stay in this house, and pay for my board and apartments, no person belonging to me shall be insulted.' Miss, replied the landlady, had the brutes behav'd like men, I had treated them like gentlemen, but as it is, I am only sorry I did not send them to the horse-pond, and I'm sure no modest woman can be offended at being rid of such debauch'd company ; none but such as are fond of the obscene conversation, with which they entertain every person they speak to, could resent that usage I have given them. Its out of regard to you, I have borne with them so long ;

long; but I must renounce womanhood, and all pretensions to modesty, if I suffered them any longer. Modesty, madam, pshaw, that's all grimace, what mighty pucker is here, for two or three smutty words to an old woman, I fancy if some body was in a dark corner and something else beyond words offer'd, there would not be half the noise, but there is always least virtue where there are most pretensions and noise made about it, and those that are past all offers but words, are most angry, not at the words I believe, but that they hate to be put in mind of a thing which they know they are past the use of; and since you are so choice of your company, I assure you madam, for my part, I'll never sleep another night in your house. The old lady was choking with rage, and would have spoke sooner, but that passion had almost thrown her into convulsions, she had only power to say, madam, since you have declared your self so much of your uncle's sentiments I'm glad of your resolution, and that it prevents me from giving your ladyship the same attendance to the door, with which I honour'd your scoundrel guardian, and then flung out of the room.

The young one was as much in a storm as the old one possibly could be, and without giving her self time to cool, so much as to consult her younger sister, who chanc'd that day to be on a visit as far as *Kensington*, and did not return till late at night, she order'd her maid to pack up her things, and drove immediately to her brother and uncle's lodgings, where she found them incircled by half a dozen rakes drinking burgundy: It was a very uncommon thing for a woman of virtue to appear in these apartments, and the servant who open'd the door, not knowing miss *Betty*, and mistaking her for some of the ladies the company had

just sent for, usher'd her into the parlour, where they
 were carousing without any manner of ceremony.
 The colonel and *Horatio* were much surpriz'd to
 see her there, and the old fellow cry'd out in an
 extacy; "d—n my blood *Betty*, I'll lay my life,
 "you and the sanctified hypocritical b——h
 "your landlady have quarrel'd, and she has sent
 "thee a packing, because you would not be so
 "virtuous as old age and ugliness. Is it not so
 "my girl, gad zounds, turning himself to a dapper
 "peer who sat by him, is not my ward here a
 "pretty wench, is it not a damn'd pity she should
 "be virtuous and allowed to carry about her vir-
 "ginity to this unseasonable time of day; gad so,
 "she is a fine girl, as strait as an arrow, with the
 "prettiest bend in her back, and the wantonest
 "little amble in her gate, and so tall, foregad
 "she's just a proper mould for a grenadier; come,
 "sit down my little ward, now you have got out
 "of the clutches of wrinkles and sanctity, gad
 "thou shalt soon be a woman and lift in our ho-
 "nourable society, you shall be president of the fe-
 "male side of the court." Miss *Betty* was thun-
 "derstruck at such a speech in such company, and
 from one who ought to have cut the throat of a-
 ny other man who should have used her in the
 same manner, and dash'd to the last degree by the
 appearance of so many young people, who by
 their aspect gave loud alarms to every virtuous
 principle, was scarce able to utter a word, but
 turning to her brother who stood grining at all the
 colonel had said, told him she wanted to speak with
 him and courtesy'd out of the room. The servant,
 who by this time knew his mistake, was heartily
 vex'd that he had introduced her to that company,
 immediately shew'd her up stairs to the dining
 room, making many apologies for his blunder,

and

and in a minute or two the colonel and *Horatio* came up stairs. It was with some difficulty she could gain so long a truce from the old rogue's impudent ribaldry as to inform him of the true grounds of the quarrel betwixt her and her landlady, both he and her brother approv'd her spirit, and told her that the gentlewoman in whose house they lodg'd was a very well bred inoffensive woman, who would meddle no more with any bodies affairs than she was permitted, was far from assuming any of those formal canting airs which mrs. — piqued herself upon, but could give a joke, and take a joke, without meaning any harm, and that she might have any apartments she pleas'd in the house. Miss *Betty* was too much in a flutter of spirits to think on the consequence of lodging under the same roof with two such profligates, or to give herself time to enquire into the character of the woman who presided in this decent family, but without any further hesitation, agreed to the proposal, call'd up the good lady, pitch'd upon an apartment next her uncle's, and sat down contented with her change, at least for that night.

The colonel and *Horatio* returned to the company and receiv'd the compliments of that polite society on the young ladies beauty, and all of them join'd in hoping, that neither the guardian, nor brother would be such recreants to the laws of their noble order as to permit so fine a woman to be pounded into matrimony and her wit and vigour chill'd with the cold practice of chastity, the colonel said at once gad forbid he should be so wicked as to be accessary to enclosing any of the game, no he was for allowing them all to range at large, and desired no quarter from the fair huntsman, only to be protected from the matrimonial poachers. Damn matrimony, says a spruce lawyer, I hope to see the day,

day, by the influence of this worthy society, that the universal addition of every woman in *England* shall be changed from spinster, to that of st—r and that a fine lady shall be no more asham'd of being called a w—re than of being complimented on her shape and mein. I hope *Horatio* you will not be asham'd of being brother to two or three fine wanton kind young w—s. *Horatio* reply'd a little tartly, you carry your impertinence a little too far. Mr. counsellor, your sister, your wife or your mother may be all whores if you will for me, but I desire for the future when you mention the word again, that you may not so much as think of my sisters, or any female within ten degrees of kindred to me. The barrister was as hot as tinder, and bilbo was almost the word with every man in the room, and all to a man, the declar'd enemy of poor *Horatio*, who could not withstand either their threats or their railery. He might have made his party good against some of them, but the influence of the colonel, with whom he durst neither quarrel nor fight, obliged him to permit of a compromise of the affair, which ended in this, that *Horatio* own'd he had err'd against the laws of their society by supposing the word w—re, an indignity to any woman, and that he would leave his sisters to their own free will in the disposal of every thing about them. He agreed to these hard articles, but with a mental reservation to preserve his sisters if he could; for tho' he would have made no scruple to have debauch'd the wife or sister of any of his companions, yet custom had taught him to think, a slip of the females of his own house, such an indelible stain to his honour, that he would have cut the throat of any man who would have made any attempt upon his sisters. However he was soon laugh'd out of this notion by his graceless uncle, who maintain'd that neither honour or disgrace could
come

come by woman; and therefore he was no more answerable for their frailties in the present case, than for their longings in their pregnancy; they were guided in both by their caprice, and directed by such whimsical changeable planets, that no man in his wits would risk his diversion, much less his honour on their determinations: In *Thort George*, the brother and uncle fairly let the society loose upon the unguarded *Betty*, promis'd to give them all opportunities, and desir'd no other conditions, than that no force or foul play should be offer'd.

The evening after her settlement in her new apartments, her brother introduc'd squire *Rattle* into her company, who courted her according to the fashion of their club, and she was obliged out of complaisance to her brother to hear all his impertinence. They were left alone, and he had the impudence to ask the last favour, after extorting many more than decency would permit, but when his insolence grew to the height, she resented the indignity with so much spirit that squire *Rattle* could never be brought to a second charge. You must know *George*, that miss *Betty* was at least six foot high, with limbs and arms proportion'd to that height, and has naturally something of the virago in her temper as well as her make, and the beau her suitor may be about your friend *Dick Simple*'s size, about four foot four or five inches, and as delicate a looking creature as you can see; he had no sooner spoke his meaning plain, and attempted to catch her in his arms, than she gave him such a box on the ear as made him reel some paces off, but she still followed him, threw his peruke into the fire, and lifting him clean up in her arms placed him fairly on the top of it, where she would have held him till he had burnt to death, if the maid and her brother in the next room, on hearing

hearing the noise, had not come in a great hurry to his assistance. You may guess at the figure the squire made on being discover'd in such a disagreeable attitude. The brother and he were both glad to make their escape as fast as possible, for fear of some more specimens of miss *Betty's* resentment. When her passion abated, she began seriously to reflect on her conduct in leaving her relations house, where she was free from such insults, and wish'd a thousand times that she might be once more under that good ladies protection. When her uncle came home, she complained bitterly of her usage from her brother and his pigmy companion, for she was enrag'd at *Horatio* that he did not that instant put the reptile to death so soon as she acquainted him with his impudence; but instead of that he only laugh'd at her, protected the creature from her own vengeance, and hurried him out of the room as if he approv'd of all he had done. The uncle heard her with some patience, and at last told her, ' why ' child that sanctified bawd you last liv'd with has ' quite spoil'd thee, and given thee such romantic notions of honour, chastity and such stuff, there is no ' bearing of it; your brother means you well, he ' would not have you ty'd to some old impotent ' rascal for life, only for the honour of being call'd ' a wife, how oddly does the hedious mouthful of ' a word sound, does it not fright thee into fits ? ' no child we design better things for you, that ' you may enjoy all the sweets of wedlock without the chain, that you shall taste of pleasure and ' liberty in the same luscious bowl, yes my girl ' that is our maxim, and hang dull custom and ' musty morals that would impose fetters upon free-born love.' I hope replied miss *Betty*, bursting into tears, that you only entertain me with this discourse, to try my virtue, and expose me to these

insults

insults to experience my constancy. It is impossible that the brother of that dear chaste woman that bore me, one oblig'd by all the ties of religion, law, and honour to protect virtue, and instruct my innocence, can seriously take pains to prostitute his own flesh and blood. I conjure you, Sir, by your sister's dying agonies, by her last pious prayers to take care of me and my orphan sisters, that you'll treat me with the language fit for modesty to hear. Let me leave this place and return again to my cousin's house, whom I have left without cause, and because I did not, nor could not, blinded with pride and passion, see the snares, she would have hindered me from falling into. Hey-day! as I hope for mercy the girl's mad, and she'll infect me with her whyning, nonsense if I have not a care. No, Hussey, you shall not go out of this house, I'll let you know I'm your guardian, and that you must obey me, and therefore to your chamber, and dream of how you were begot; for if I can calculate nativities, you may be oblig'd very soon to be making experiments. I know two or three lusty young fellows, not such puny cits as Squire Rattle; no, they are men every inch of them, and can hold you tug, who have sworn to beat up your quarters one of these days: think of receiving them as you ought; let's have none of your pulling and hauling whimpers. She was about to reply, but he call'd in his man, and she was oblig'd to retire to her apartment, full of ominous presages of what soon happened to the ruin of her virtue and reputation.

She consulted with her maids, and told her fears; but the creature was already the property of her brother, and betrayed all her resolutions. She attempted to get out of the house, but was soon let to understand, that she was a prisoner, and the

Part II. M. Landlady

landlady her jailor, who had as little of the woman about her, as possible. She was inconsolable on this discovery, as by it she saw that there was a determin'd plot upon her honour, approved of by her brother, who ought to have been the guardian of it. But, my dear George, it would take up too much time, and besides, give a more serious turn to my narration than I incline it should bear, were I to enumerate all her struggles to save her virtue, and the many schemes laid to inveigle her out of her honesty; let it suffice that she stood out a siege of six months, though every day exposed to the attacks of every ruffian of their acquaintance; but at last, by degrees, the company she was obliged to keep accustomed her to their conversation, rubbed off the delicate bloom from her sentiments and modesty, nursed up the warm appetite by slow and insensible degrees, till the blood was fired and became too strong for the government of reason, unassisted by pride and virgin modesty. In short, she was caught at an unguarded hour by the lord ~~such~~, who kept her for near fourteen years. After him she fell to the lot of a commoner, whom she outlived, and from whom she now enjoys a small annuity, which, with the interest of her own money, which she preserved untouched, enables her to live very decently in a remote corner of this city, where she is so much reformed from what she was, that though her slips are publick, yet she is visited by people of reputation and fashion. But as I may have occasion to mention her in my next, which brings up her sister's story from where I left them, I shall trouble you with no more of her this post, I am,

Dear George,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Henry Rakewell.

L E T.

LETTER X.

Being a Continuation of the History of the three famous Sisters the Miss M—g—ts.

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield, Esq.

Dear George,

IF you remember, in my last I took notice, that the two youngest miss M—g—ts were on a visit at *Kensington*, when their elder Sister took the unguarded step of quitting her relations house, and taking shelter at her uncle's lodgings. When they came home they were surprized to find so great an alteration in the family, and it was so late, and the landlady gone to bed, that they could not learn any of the particulars of the quarrel, or whether it was such as required them to join in the resentment; but in the morning the landlady acquainted them with the true matter of fact, without any exaggeration, and blamed herself that she had allowed herself to be so far transported in her passion as to take any notice of what miss *Betty* had said, condoling, in the most affectionate manner, the danger she run in putting herself so much into the power of her uncle and guardian, who seemed to have so little sense of modesty in women, that she much feared their consideration of the honour of their family would not hinder them from using all means to make her think as lightly of it as they did themselves.

The young ladies fell immediately into the same way of thinking, and were far from blaming the treatment madam had given their ruffian relations, and joined with her in bewailing the danger to

which their sister's virtue and reputation were exposed, when left entirely to their management, and resolved, for their own parts, to continue under the protection of this good lady, and to join with her in means to induce miss *Betty* to take the same course.

They immediately sent to all their acquaintance to find out where miss *Betty* had taken shelter, and were under the greatest concern when they came to understand for certain that she lodged at her uncle's apartments, and were informed that the house was famed for nothing less than modesty and decency. They represented her danger to all their relations in town, and requested them to join in persuading her to leave the infamous retreat; but as those they applied to knew that those with whom she was had the authority of a brother and a guardian, they declined meddling in the affair, or did it so coolly, that little could be expected from it. The young ladies wrote several letters to their sister, requesting a meeting at a friend's house, for they would by no means trust themselves under that roof; but they could receive answers to none of them, they being all intercepted by the uncle and brother, and their emissaries, with whom miss *Betty* was closely besieged; so that finding no likelihood of succeeding in their good intentions, they were obliged to content themselves with bare wishes for her safe delivery. She, on her part, had not been two days in the house, when she was as much alarmed, and wished as earnestly to be out of it as possible; but she was so closely watched, that all her schemes for an escape proved abortive, and she was in the end, as I observed in my last, moulded to their purposes, and, when once initiated, and encouraged by the countenance of so near relations, she needed no prompter to act the vicious

cious part assign'd her, she became every whit as abandon'd as they would have her.

It was then they left her to the freedom of her own will, and for the convenience of her undoer, the lord ****, she took apartments within two or three doors of the house where her sisters liv'd, and publicly avow'd her prostitution to them, and all the neighbourhood. Her sisters had a real affection for her, and visited her at first with the honest intention of representing to her the scandal which her behaviour had given to all her relations, and the modest part of the sex. She laugh'd at their remonstrances, and being mistress of a great deal of wit, and furnish'd by her late acquaintance with all the common place topics against virtue and decency, she soon silenc'd their arguments, which were only supported with artless innocence; and at last her conversation, which they had no courage to withdraw themselves from, though urg'd to it by all their friends and acquaintance, made vice appear less deformed than it really was, and rendered them every day less shock'd with the same scenes they saw acted at their sister's apartment. The pomp and grandeur in which she appeared had likewise its effects upon their vanity: fine cloaths, pompous equipage, and a constant circle of the most expensive amusements, in which they were often partakers, were too strong allurements for young maids under no check from those who had the management of their education and fortunes. Miss *Hannah*, the second, at this time had a suitor in the honourable way, a young gentleman every way her equal, and truly deserving her esteem. He was the only son of a wealthy baronet in the neighbourhood of their brother's estate, and had long entertained a passion for miss *Hannah*, and propos'd this winter to have compleated the match,

as he found a suitable return from the young lady, and could have no scruples about the consent of her relations. This gentleman, whom I shall call *Eugenio*, was constant in his visits to his mistress, and could not be kept in ignorance of the scandalous behaviour of their eldest sister. However, he was too polite to throw any reflections upon the one for the folly of the other, but join'd with her in every friendly design to reclaim the deluded fair. This he did till he saw his mistress's visits to her abandon'd sister become too frequent, and that she spoke of her follies with less resentment than became a virtuous woman, and join'd herself in several parties of pleasure with her sister's paramour, and the loose company that frequented her apartments, then indeed he took the liberty to remonstrate the danger to which she expos'd her virtue and reputation, and, in terms perhaps a little too peremptory, insisted upon her quitting her sister's company, since she could have no hopes of reclaiming her. Miss flew in a passion, that he should pretend to dictate to her, and prescribe rules for her conduct, especially with regard to her sister, with whom she would see and converse with in spite of all the fellows in *England*. *Eugenio* urg'd all that could occur to a sincere friend and passionate lover, to persuade her, that he had taken no liberty but what even their mutual acquaintance, much more the claim which she had permitted him to form upon her person and affection, would justify; but the more he urg'd the more she was obstinate, and almost came to an open rupture with him before parting, and purely to spite him went immediately to her sister's, and though she knew he was to be there, yet went to the play with her and her gallant, and sat in one of the side boxes, which was fill'd with nothing but some of the

the most abandoned rakes, and most infamous kept mistresses in town, with whom, to chagreen her lover, the more she appeared so particularly intimate, that she was not ashamed to assume their manners and behaviour. *Eugenio* from that moment, quitted all thoughts of making her his wife; the regard for the honour of his family, would not permit him to wed a woman who seemed so little concerned for her reputation, as to be even willing to anticipate the character of a prostitute, before she had in reality merited it. But still, his mind had dwelt so long upon her, and he had accustomed himself so often to think of the ravishing pleasure she was capable of communicating, that he could not resolve entirely to abandon her, but considering with himself, that her virtue was already staggering, and that pride, and the habit of modesty, its two greatest guardians, was in a fair way of being banished, by the society she was now engaged in; he determined to let her pursue her present course, and even encourage her in it, hoping that in a short time he might enjoy all the pleasure she could bestow, without risking his honour in her management. It was after he came home from the play, that he formed this resolution, and in order to set matters in the channel he wanted, he went next morning to pay a visit to miss *Betty*, which was the first time he had seen her since she left her cousin's house. She was somewhat dashed at his first appearance, as judging he came to take the liberty of a design'd brother-in-law, to lecture her upon her conduct, and could not help being concerned, abandoned as she was, lest her behaviour should influence him, to break off a match so beneficial to her sister, and for that reason was determined to hear with great patience, all he intended to say to her

her. But *Eugenio* had no such reforming projects in his head, he wished her to be no better than she was, and only hoped she would be weak enough to lend him a helping hand towards finishing the destruction of her sister *Hannah*. He addressed her with the same freedom he used to do, and enquired of her about my lord's health, with as much ceremony and seeming tenderness, as if he had been her husband; and even went the length to applaud her courage, in laughing at dull custom, and making herself and so worthy a peer happy, without the mechanical imposition of the church. She took this at first as a sneer, but he soon persuaded her he was in earnest, by confessing that all his pretensions to matrimony, with her sister, was only in compliance to a foolish modesty he had imbibed with his early education, which he believed he had now got the better of: as he uttered this, my lord entered the room, and congratulated him on his change, as did miss *Betty*. But added she, how do you think my sister *Hannah* will relish this? I'm afraid she is determined to lose her name the old fashion way, and will not give a lesser lease than for life. As for that, replied *Eugenio*, you and my lord must endeavour to bring her to reason, to which you are obliged by more ties than one; for let me tell you, you have been instrumental in spoiling her for a wife, and therefore ought at least to help to make her something else, to compensate the pains I have taken on that account. Miss *Betty* reddened at the expression, as believing still that, he meant only to expose her own conduct, or at least affront her, and was about to make some passionate reply, when the uncle entered, and my lord cried out to him, egad colonel, we have got a new proselite; *Eugenio* here has laid aside his virtuous matrimonial airs, and has been applying to miss *Betty* for her interest, in converting

verting that little proud minx *Hannab* to the faith; but I fancy by her looks, she takes the proposal a little amiss, let us join interest with *Eugenio*, and persuade her to it: with all my heart, returned the colonel, I have a better opinion of the young gentleman than ever I had, and if I have any influence with my wards, they shall be his at his own terms. Miss *Betty* now felt all the pride of her sex return upon her, one moment she raged at the colonel, and call'd my lord and *Eugenio* all the hard names she could think of, for supposing her capable of acting such a part to her sister; no, says she to my lord, tho' by the help of that old villain, who ought to have protected my innocence, I have lost all pretensions to the modesty of my sex, and am become a blot to my family, yet I have so much sense left me as to resent an indignity offer'd to my sister, and to screen her from *Eugenio's* attempts, if he has any inconsistency with her honour, which I can scarce persuade myself he is so base as to entertain; I flatter myself, that he has only taken this method, to show me the horrid deformity of my own conduct, and how much I am in danger of involving my innocent sister in the same gulph of infamy. At this instant, miss *Hannab* came in, and a total silence ensued, as none knew but *Eugenio* how to pursue the discourse before her. She saw them all in a kind of confusion, and was little better herself on seeing *Eugenio* there, whom she did not expect in company she thought he so much contemned. He at last asked her in a frank manner, how she liked the play last night, telling her at the same time, he was glad to see her so well pleased with the company she had with her; she told him, she was always pleased with the company she chose for herself, and wondered that he should this morning, join in company he rail'd at so much last night. I was then, replied *Eugenio*,

a supercilious unfashionable coxcomb, and said what I'm heartily sorry for, but since that, I have made shift to gather my scattered senses, and am come here on purpose to ask your sister's pardon for all I have said against her, and to tell you that I think you cannot keep company more agreeable to me, than those that frequent this house. In short madam, I'm determin'd to be above the little dull punctilios that has hitherto laid restraint upon our mutual liberty, and am willing, if you permit me to remain your humble servant, for the future, to make no impertinent remarks upon your future conduct, but join in every thing that can fill up an unmixed circle of unconfined delight. Most heroically resolv'd my hero, replied the colonel, and my ward shall sign the articles. Neither of the ladies could yet tell what to make of *Eugenio*, they were desirous to suppose the whole a banter, and unwilling to break with a man of his figure, and therefore were glad to fall in with the colonel's humour, and turn the whole into raillery; they continued in chat for most of the morning, and they all went to the *Mall*, it being a fine day, and a great deal of company. *Hannah* was much surpris'd, that *Eugenio* joined them so publicly, and especially that he permitted her to go along with them. As she was walking along with them, she whisper'd him, that shew as afraid she should have a lecture about this walk, the first time they were alone: by no means replied *Eugenio*, I now know you, and can trust to your prudence, and as long as I am satisfied of that, I don't value a rush what the vain world may think of you or me; as long as we are conscious of our own innocence, a fig for what the envious, the malicious, old and ugly say of us. This was deliver'd in so serious an air, attended by a tender squeeze of the hand, and a significant glance

of

of the eye, that tho' it contradicted the whole tenor of *Eugenio's* behaviour for years past, yet as it fell in with her new born inclination, to the company and diversion her sister kept, she believed him sincere, assumed an air of content in her countenance, and treated him with greater marks of tenderness, than she had hitherto vouchsafed him. This was *Eugenio's* first step to keep her in the company she was in, and to account for his permitting it without seeming to alter his sentiments towards her, or giving her any hint that he had any designs contrary to those he had so long professed. - Miss *Hannah* having had his permission, went now constantly to her sister's, and lived more there than at her own apartments, and answered all the objections of her wife relations, by her having *Eugenio's* countenance, who himself made one of the rakish society as often as he could, without endangering his health or reputation. Miss *Hannah* grew every day less rigid in her behaviour, and *Eugenio* more familiar in his addresses, and never spoke of the happy day, a theme which formerly engrossed much of his conversation; but she was too much taken with the continued round of riot and diversion, with which she was deeply entertained, to make any reflection on the alteration of his conduct, and heard him with the rest of my lord's companions, rail against matrimony with as much freedom as the best of them, without supposing him in earnest, or believing it to be any thing else than a fashionable kind of raillery, in which she was in no measure concerned.

In about a month or two after this change of *Eugenio's* conduct, my lord and his madam, miss *Betty*, went to pass some time at a country seat of his, in *Essex*, where miss *Hannah* and *Eugenio* were invited to partake of the diversions of the season, in

the country. Here as they were less incumbered with company, they enjoyed more hours to themselves, and *Eugenio* had prepared her so well for every attempt he could make, that he thought it time to make a grand attack; and my lord and her sister were so far from interrupting his designs, that if they did not forward them directly, yet they took no measures to prevent what any one with half an eye must have foreseen to be the inevitable consequence of their unguarded familiarities with one another.

The whole company had been one evening out very late, listening to a small concert of music, which my lord had prepared upon the canal in the garden. The evening was calm, and remarkably serene, the moon shone bright, and the groves and canals appear'd to great advantage; the music resounding with soft melody, from the neighbouring echo, lulled the mind into a kind of rapturous insensibility, and hushed every passion that might disturb the calm repose. This *Eugenio* thought a critical minute, to steal upon the unguarded affections of his unthinking mistress. The company were strolling about within sound of the music, each as his fancy led him, and *Eugenio* singled out *Hannab*, and after a turn or two, entered a close arbour, far enough from the rest of the company. She sat down to listen attentively to the music, while he reclined her head on his arm, and permitted him now and then to steal a balmy kiss. *Philomel* tuned his little pipe, and joined in concert with the musicians, and altogether formed such a delicious harmony, that charmed every sense of the thoughtless fair. She sunk almost in an extacy into *Eugenio's* arms, who was not so intent upon what he heard, as what he felt, and seized the lucky minute, and was possessed of all her treasure, before the nymph was waked

waked from her musical trance, which was succeeded by one still more sensibly ravishing. When the first tumult was over she gently chid the swain for taking such an advantage; but he produced so many strong and repeated arguments to appease her, that he made his peace effectually, and from that night enjoyed all liberties, without once thinking of matrimony, and kept her in a very genteel manner till his death; and besides her own fortune, gave very handsomely to the children of the union, some of whom appear now in genteel life. I am,

Dear George,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Henry Rakewell.

LETTER XI.

Containing the history of miss Sally M——, the youngest of the three sisters.

Captain Henry Rakewell to George Bellfield, Esq.

Dear George,

MISS Sally M——, the youngest of the three sisters, who have been the subject of my two last letters, might be near fifteen when her second sister was seduced, and would have met with the same fate, notwithstanding her youth, from the goodly society, into which both her sisters were willing enough to introduce her, if a certain melancholy in her temper, and a weakly habit of body had not suspended her ruin some time longer.

However,

However, it had some effect upon her mind; for the gay manner in which her sisters lived, and the gay equipage in which they appeared, took off a great deal of the horror which a young creature should always conceive at every remote appearance of vice, and made her think that there was little more than universal custom wanting to establish their conduct in as virtuous a light as the most rigid: but the natural gravity of her temper hindered her from plunging immediately into that delusive scheme of happiness, and the gentlewoman with whom she continued to live, after her second sister had gone to live publicly at *Eugenio's* house, kept her for some time within decent bounds; but when that lady saw that nothing she could urge was sufficient to hinder her from now and then visiting her sisters, and appearing with them in public as often as her health would permit, she wrote to an aunt of hers by her father's side, who lived in *Yorkshire*, and acquainted her with the danger the only remaining innocent branch of the family was in of sharing the same infamy with her two infatuated sisters. The aunt, who was truly a pious old woman, took a journey to *London* on purpose, and carried down miss *Sally* with her, in spite of all her brother or guardian could say to the contrary.

In a few months miss *Sally* recovered her health, and shook off much of that melancholy in her temper, which had only been the effect of her indisposition, and appeared a gay, young, blooming beauty. Her melancholy cast, while in town, had given her a taste for reading, and she was pretty well acquainted with every branch of the *belles lettres*, which, joined to a solid judgment, with ready wit, gave a very agreeable turn to her conversation, and rendered her in a little time the toast of the whole country. As she observed nothing but
decency

decency in her aunt's family; her behaviour was strictly modest, without any stiffness; and her carriage engagingly affable. It cannot be supposed that a young lady thus qualified, of a good family, and three thousand pounds in her pocket, could be long without honourable addresses: she had many suitors of all classes, but none who bid fairer for the prize of her person and affection than young *Lothario*, a young gentleman bred at the university, had made the tour of *Europe*; and really improved in his travels, and who had just returned to take possession of an estate in that neighbourhood; left him by an uncle, a distant relation of the aunt's husband. This title, relation, introduced him to the family, and his genteel behaviour, so different from many of the mean fox-hunters who had hitherto aogled for *Sally's* heart, gave him an interest with the young lady in a shorter time than he himself expected.

He saw her, and his heart acknowledged her as the divinity of the greatest power in those parts, and as such he made her the object of his devotion. The young gentleman, when he made her the declaration of his affection, was not perfectly acquainted with the state of his own mind: he saw miss *Sally* was truly amiable, he admired her beauty, acknowledged her wit and judgment, and found himself most pleased when in her company: this little fluttering warmth, which the idea of a young woman kindled about his easy inflammable heart, he explained into love, and as such made an offering to the beautiful maid. She, on her part, saw, or fancied, in him all the charms she could wish in man, believed him sincere, and was too little acquainted with the world to conceal the tender sentiments with any degree of art.

Lothario

Lotbario saw he had made an impression, and pursued his conquest with all the cunning arts of love and gallantry, and easily found an encrease of the soft flame with which he had warm'd the enamour'd *Sally's* breast. He even felt in himself all the raptures of unfeigned love, and saw no happiness but he might expect in the arms of his lovely mistress. He proposed the match to the aunt, who approved of it, and gave the lovers countenance in all the innocent freedoms common to persons on the crisis of so close an union; nothing but the forms were wanting on both sides, which could not be concluded without the consent of the colonel, the lady's guardian, and to obtain which *Lotbario* proposed setting out in a few days for *London*, and then return to wed and consummate; but warm youthful blood, stimulated by so many innocent endearments as daily passed between the loving pair, put it into the youth's head to invert the order of things, and consummate first, and so defer the marriage till afterwards; which proved to be too long an afterwards to poor *Sally*, who never lived to see the ceremony performed.

I warrant, *George*, you expect I am to give you a detail of the amorous siege, how the nymph defended, and how the swain attack'd the black fort, with all the tricks and stratagems used by the besieger to gain the out-works, corrupt the sentinels, pride and modesty; how he gained by slow approaches the unguarded out-works, made a lodgment in the cover'd way, and then storm'd in breach; all this, no doubt, you are prepared for, but I'm determin'd to disappoint you for once, and only tell you, that by the means of a few pieces properly applied to the fist of her maid, he gained admittance to her bed-chamber when all the family was in bed, and the lady dreaming of nothing so little

little as the approach of an Enemy, he softened best
first, and protested he had no bad design, and for
a long time did not so much as drop a bad word, but
but before he parted he found means to do some
thing which implied every thing that old women
long for, and young ones blush at.
Sally found the guilty joy so sweet, she could
not be long angry with her swain for anticipating
a few weeks of their mutual bliss. He prolonged
his departure as long as he could, that he might
revel the longer in the stolen delights, which were
now freely granted, but at length, whether his appeti-
tite began to pall, or that he could no longer with-
any decency delay setting out for London, he took
leave of his mistress, and went post for that capital
from whence he promised to return on the wings
of love, which you know are always supposed to
fly very swift, to establish his claim for ever on
the person of his fond mistress.
A week or two passed before any news arrived
from *Eschario*, and then only a short billet, con-
taining some melancholy doubts about his being
able to obtain the old colonel's consent to the match,
and that worded in such an indifferent cold stile, that
poor Sally thought it breathed the air of *Greenland*
and could be written only with an icicle plucked
from some of the eternal icy mountains of that
frozen ocean: it breathed none of those warm breezes
of balmy love, which filled every period of his con-
versation before he left *Norwich*, or those impetu-
ous transports, which gave life to the most rapt
expressions of fond desire: but all was calm and so-
ber, his words flowing in the same easy lukewarm
strain he would have indited a letter to his steward.
She showed the indifferent scrawl to her aunt
who saw at once the air of London had given a new

turn to her intended kinsman, and that it was very improbable she should ever see him in those parts on the subject of a match with her niece. She railed at the old rake the colonel, and her two elder nieces, whose conduct she apprehended had given *Lothario* a handle to break off the match. However, she comforted miss *Sally*, and advised her to make herself easy about him, and to show so much spirit on the occasion as to despise the fickle wretch. *Sally*, in the first transports of her rage, was as much inclinable as she could desire to follow her advice; but when a night or two's pondering on the matter, gave that time to subside, alas! she found herself unable to forget her charming adorer, the graces of his person, the bewitching melody of his soothing tongue danced in her imagination, and painted her loss as the greatest misfortune: but this was not all; she, perhaps, by the help of pride and philosophy, might have got the better of her doating fondness for the dear deceiver; but their stolen raptures had produced a pledge a little lower than her bosom, which she could not so easily get rid of, and threatened her reputation with very hateful consequences. In short, *George*, the poor girl found herself, by some odd marks which the women only know, that she was actually some weeks gone with child: this made her inconsolable, especially as she had not a living soul whom she could entrust with her secret, or advise with on the dismal occasion; for even the maid, who had been instrumental in betraying her, had left her a day or two after *Lothario* went for *London*, not without leaving her ground to suspect that she had gone for the same place to make up part of *Lothario's* equipage. As to her aunt, she knew her such a violent enemy to every slip of the flesh, that she had

no prospect of any sympathy from her, but rather expected, the moment she discovered her case, to be turn'd out of Doors with every mark of disgrace her violent temper could suggest. What must she do in this dreadful dilemma? all that woman could do she did to give her faithless swain an idea of her danger, and to prevail on him to return and splice up her broken reputation; but the obdurate rogue was deaf to all the expostulations, sighs, groans, and wailings she could cram into above a dozen of letters she wrote him in the space of a month, to all which he vouchsafed only once or twice a line in return, as cold, or rather more chilling than the first.

Miss's complexion began to fade, her stomach grew qualmish, a bluish circle settled under her now sunk eyes, and her shape grew a little plumper than ordinary, tho' all the rest of her person was much emaciated; all which gave the old aunt some ugly surmizes, and induced her to ask some queer questions, which alarmed the niece very much, least this knowing old woman should discover more than she inclined to reveal at present, therefore she determined at once to remove herself out of the reach of her inquisitive impertinence, and set out privately in the stage for *London*, hoping that her presence might effect what her letters had not influence to bring about with her stray'd lover.

She arrived in town without any cross accident, and took up her lodgings in a place remote from every body whom she formerly knew, and in a day or two after, being recovered from the fatigues of her journey, went to call for *Lotbario* at his lodgings, who was prodigiously surprized when he saw her, little expecting she would have had the courage to have travelled so far to put in her claim to

his charming person, which he was just upon the point of disposing of to a citizen's daughter of but mean qualification either of mind or person, but recommended to his affection by the force of twenty thousand pounds, which the father was willing to give for the sake of being allied to a more noble family than what he could boast of himself. However, *Zolbario* received his old acquaintance with as much warmth as he could feign, and wai'd as much as he could at the first interview coming to any particulars about their marriage; that subject he found means to adjourn by a kiss, and the repetition of those joys which *Sally* had been foolishly lavish of, and at last parted for that time, promising to see her next day at her own lodgings: but that day came without seeing or hearing from the swain, and two or three more added to the number of *Sally's* unhappy hours; at last she went to enquire for him, but found, to her inexpressible sorrow, that he was married the day before, and gone to consummate the nuptials at his father-in-law's country seat, not many miles out of town. I'm not in a humour, *George*, to be particular in the cursing, railings, and complainings of the unfortunate fair when she heard of the apostacy and total loss of her faithless lover. She said and did every thing women mad with rage and disappointment are commonly supposed to do; but as nothing that is violent is lasting, her rage subsided into calm grief, which she uttered in private to herself for several weeks, having no body to whom she could unbosom her sorrows; for as to her sisters, she yet despised their manner of life, and if she had not, she had treated them in her days of innocent retirement in the country with so much contempt, and given herself such rigorous airs of virtue, she knew they would but exult at her misfortunes,

tunes, and she knew her brother and uncle had no mean notions of honour to be any ways instrumental in revenging the insult offered her by the false-hearted *Lothario*.

She was in a very disconsolate state; every day expecting her shame to become inevitably public, when looking out of the window of her apartment she saw *Alice*, her former maid, who, as I have already observed, was necessary to her undoing, pass by: she sent the maid of the house after her, to acquaint her that a lady would speak to her: *Alice* came back to her, and pretended to be very glad to see her mistress. They soon fell upon the subject of *Lothario*, against whom *Alice* rail'd with great invective, for she was likewise acquainted with his marriage, calling him all the hard names she could think of, but in her rage happened to drop some words that let *Sally* know as much as that *Alice* had suffered by his treachery, which fill'd her jealousy against the poor waiting woman. What, says she, and was it to follow my inconstant you pretended such urgent business to see your aunt at *London* when you left me? you have been necessary in seducing him from me, and perhaps if you had not suffered him to be familiar with you he had been still constant; but its owing to such strumpets as you that virtuous women are so often ill used by the men. At the word strumpet, *Alice* was fired with indignation, and could no longer observe that distance in her behaviour, which was her place, but with a malicious smile retorted, Ma'am, I am no more a strumpet than your virtuous ladyship. Merry come up, strumpet! as if none but you gentlefolks had a right to go to bed with a man forsooth, tho' you was as free of something to Mr. *Lothario* as I was, you must give yourself

yourself airs of virtue, and all that, and I, poor I, must be called all the naughty words you can think of, only for following your own example; if you had been, miss, more reserved, perhaps you might have had him still, but he had enough of you, and he's now married a little country cit, merely because she had money, and the wit to keep her maidenhead till the work was sure. *Sally* was provoked to the highest degree at the insolence of her quondam maid, and gave her a sound box on the ear to stop the rapidity of her clack, which *Alice* returned with great spirit, and a fair battle ensued, to the great effusion of hair, pinners, coifs, and handkerchiefs, and might have been of worse consequence to the enraged combatants if some of the people of the house had not run up at the noise, and put an end to the dreadful fray. *Alice*, who was by much the weakest vessel, had got the worst of the blows, and to be revenged of her proud mistress opened the whole scene to the spectators, to the great mortification of the unhappy *Sally*, who, shocked with the ridiculous figure she made in the narration, sunk upon the bed in a swoon.

This accident moved the compassion of the landlady, who had appeared to keep the peace of her house, and induced her to be very anxious about her lodger's recovery. When she had brought her to herself, she made *Alice* quit the room, and endeavoured to comfort the young lady as much as possible, telling her that she heartily sympathized with her, but that she need not be so much ashamed of it, for it had been the case of many an honest woman, and, to tell the truth, had been just her own. Here she told her an old *Canterbury* story, bearing date about fifty years ago, when she did
Hobbes
some-

something she ought not to have done with a certain great 'squire; but concluded she, I made the rogue pay for it, I sued him on promise of marriage, and recovered as much damages as has kept me very decently ever since, and enabled me to bear with the crosses of three very bad husbands, and to bury eight or nine children, and if you take my advice you'll sue your rogue of an undoer, and I warrant you we shall swinge him, and make some of the citizen's bags pay for it; I'll lend for my cousin *Nicba*, the lawyer, in the temple; but first you shall take a sup of my bottle to comfort your heart, indeed you shall: with this she started up, brought the bottle, and it had a wonderful effect. A reconciliation was effected between the mistress and *Alice*, who undertook to be an evidence of the promise of marriage. The lawyer came, took his instructions, and executed them so well, that in about nine months he brought her a verdict for 5000 *l.* which *Lotbario's* father-in-law paid as the first moiety of his daughter's portion.

Sally was by this time delivered of a fine boy, and she had picked an acquaintance during the tryal with a young lawyer, whom she permitted to enter so often and so deeply into her case, that she condescended to live with him without the ceremony, and spent upon him the interest of her money as long as he lived. After his death she took up with a young parson, who had but a small living, and stood in need of *Sally's* help instead of a plurality, which he had not interest enough to procure. He would have wheedled her to have given him a perpetuity of her benefice, but she did not care to take the church for better for worse, and thought it the most prudent method to oblige the son of *Levi* to constant residence,

residence, by keeping him in a state of dependance on her bounty. He happened to outlive her, and was so much in her good graces at the time of her death, that she left him every thing she had; for all the fruit of her folly had gone before her. He preached her funeral sermon, where he concealed her failings, and exaggerated her virtues as much as possible, and now lives very fashionably on what he got by her. I am,

Dear George

Your most humble servant

Henry Rakewell

conciliation was effected between the mistress and the boy, and took to be an evidence of the propriety of marriage. The lawyer came, took his instructions, and executed them to wit, that in about nine months he should have a verdict for five hundred pounds, and a third part of a fine boy, and she had picked an acquaintance during the trial with a young lawyer, whom she permitted to enter to suit her to get rid of her case, and she concluded to live with him without the ceremony, and spent upon him the interest of her money as long as he lived. After his death she took up with a young parson, who had but a small living, and stood in need of her help instead of a pin money, which he had not interest to procure. He would have what she had, but she had given him a perpetuity of her property, and did not care to take the church for her lot for want, and thought it the more prudent method to oblige the son of A. to contribute

